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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Participation in Cairo Meeting Ruled Out

NC0806141595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1325 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jericho, 8 Jun (MENA)—Official Palestinian Authority sources have ruled out Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's participation in tomorrow's meeting in Cairo between President Husni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The sources said that there had been no official confirmation of 'Arafat's participation, that it was only a mere possibility. They added that the date set for the 'Arafat-Christopher's meeting is Sunday [11 June].

Reports about 'Arafat's possible participation in the Cairo meeting circulated in Jericho today.

Sha'th Views Negotiations With Israelis

NC0806165395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1235 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jericho, 8 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stated that the Israeli concept of the agreement relating to 1 July is rejected by the PA. He said that the Palestinian concept is clear and we are late regarding the complete implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles agreement. This is related to the transitional stage that includes redeployment of Israeli forces outside of West Bank cities and villages, the transfer of all civil powers to the PA in the West Bank, and the holding of legislative elections in all of Palestine. He noted that the security arrangements, which the Israelis insist are the forth appendix to the agreement, are an indivisible part of the redeployment and that he does no object to this. Dr. Sha'th made this statement to a MENA correspondent in the PA areas.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the Israelis promised that negotiations would end on 1 July, that implementation would begin immediately afterward, and that implementation could continue until September and October and, consequently, that the redeployment would be completed during the summer months. We are satisfied with this, he said. We stressed to the Israeli side that there was a need to define starting and ending dates and to fix the dates for the elections in the towns and villages and to hold the elections 22 days after the final withdrawal.

Dr. Sha'th said that he now notices a development in the Israeli negotiating language and even in the mechanisms. He said the statement made yesterday regarding the Declaration of Principles agreement is not completely new but it is new if we consider the Israeli stalling. The Israeli recognition, for the first time, of the need to transfer all powers to the PA is new. Dr. Sha'th said that joint Palestinian and Israeli military committees are currently visiting all areas to define the security measures. He noted that the reports on Israeli withdrawal from certain areas is symbolic.

Dr. Sha'th said that the meeting between Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Yo'el Singer, Israeli foreign ministry legal adviser, in Brussels, and the agreement with the European side to supervise the elections are a message to us that they are serious. He noted that the issue of redeployment of the Israeli forces remains pending between the two opposed Israeli and Palestinian concepts. The Israelis, he said, have not yet reached a decision on withdrawal from West Bank towns and villages according to a timetable. When we reach a common concept I can say that I am optimistic. So far, we have not reached such a concept and intensive negotiations are continuing.

Dr. Sha'tdh said: We maintain that 1 July is a very important date and we cannot change our position. He said that German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit was "a demonstration of peace," as are the visits by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, even though the goals are different. Kohl's visit was intended to sign an economic agreement with Jordan and Christopher's visit is aimed at resolving the Syrian knot. These visits, which also aim to solve the Palestinian knot, take place at a date close to 1 July.

Dr. Sha'th noted the importance of the meeting between 'Arafat and President Mubarak and of the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings. He said that all parties are seeking to have the problem solved by 1 July through a dual strategy to prevent the peace process from collapsing. We are helping in these efforts, he said.

Discussing the German Chancellor's visit to Jericho and his meeting with Palestinian president 'Arafat, Dr. Sha'th said that during this visit a mistake was corrected. Germany spoke of German-Jordanian-Israeli projects on the Jordan River and the Dead Sea and it forgot Palestine. We protested this because the Jordan River is not only Israeli and Jordanian. Kohl corrected this mistake and told us that we are a fourth party in the projects on the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. We have two-thirds of the western and northern shores; these are Palestinian territory. He said that the Germans corrected this mistake also and we joined as a fourth party in these projects. He stressed that there are no problems between us and Jordan and that there is joint cooperation in all fields.

Fatah Readies Measures for Negotiations Breakdown

MM0806130395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jun 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Approves Series of Measures in Case Autonomy Expansion Negotiations Fail"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned from Fatah sources that, during its recent meeting in Tunis, Fatah's Central Committee drew up an unannounced program of measures that Fatah would apply and the National Authority would presumably adhere to in the event of the failure of the Palestinian efforts and pressures to prevent delay beyond 1 July as the final deadline for the implementation of the Oslo agreement provisions on redeployment and elections.

Under that program Israel would not be given any further deadlines and there would be a series of Palestinian reactions if the 1 July deadline is not met, including mobilization of the masses for the reactivation of the intifadah. That has in effect been started, with Fatah activities increasing noticeably just recently. The measures would also include exposing Israeli tactics to the masses and taking more intransigent positions on a resumption of the negotiations — an approach favored by Fatah for the first time — as well as opening the way for a high degree of coordination between Fatah and the rejectionist forces such as Hamas and the [Islamic] Jihad to convince them of military operations against Israel until 1 July [sentence as published]. That is in addition to taking a more serious view of the importance of the Arabs in Israel, particularly after the Knesset debate on Jerusalem and the support demonstrated by the Arab group.

The program of measures also concentrates on revival of Arab solidarity in support of the Palestinian position, linking any progress in the Arab world's relations with Israel to real progress in implementing the provisions of the Oslo agreement, with the emphasis that there should be a guarantee that Israel would not impose a fait accompli in Jerusalem.

The Fatah Central Committee meeting also reaffirmed the need to raise the level of coordination with Europe and the Arabs to put pressure on the United States, which is adopting a position of total alignment with Israel. It also agreed to strengthen the role of the Europeans as cosponsors of the peace process.

Informed sources say that, on the internal level, the Central Committee approved a program for strengthening the Movement's political role and presence in the political process in the occupied territory and the Gaza Strip through participation in the expected elections as the ruling party, and for the reactivation of its central role among the other forces while maintaining the option of continuing the peace process. That is in addition to continuous expansion within the masses in Palestine to prevent its demise if the peace process failed.

Observers have noticed a drop in the tension between the supporters and opponents of the Oslo agreement within Fatah. Debates between the two at the Central Committee's meetings were calm and, the observers note, the supporters listened "attentively" to the opponents and agreed with them on many points and ideas.

Qaddumi: Negotiations Lack 'Substance'

MM0806151795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 95 p 3

[Interview with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You said recently that you expect nothing to happen on Israel's part at the beginning of July.

[Qaddumi] There was no unanimity in the Executive Committee as regards the continuation of the negotiations, because most Executive Committee members — those who attended and those who did not — are against continuing such negotiations. But they — or some of them - - do not want to declare this. The negotiations are without political substance. They are prattle, leading to further concessions. I firmly believe that, if the negotiations continue, I will oppose them and anyone who negotiates in this connection, because their continuation makes it look as though the Palestinian position has no option but to submit to Israel's orders.

The [Palestine] National Council endorsed these realities on the basis of land for peace and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 concerning withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. But Israel has not even honored the agreement about which we voiced our reservations, namely the Oslo agreement. Almost a year has elapsed and there has been no withdrawal from the West Bank. And Israel has begun to Judaize Jerusalem completely. If Israel does not move out of the occupied Palestinian territories in Gaza and the West Bank, I will resist all these measures. And I urge the Palestinian people in these crucial moments not to comply with what is being done because it is serious, and harms the Palestinian cause.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You said that you will oppose and resist anyone who negotiates to offer Israel further conditions. Will this opposition be conducted within the PLO framework or the framework of an independent opposition?

[Qaddumi] I am part of that framework, and I am in charge of Palestinian diplomacy. I am a main partner. Negotiators must know that I am a main partner. I can stop all those attempts. We have given them more than a year. Some people must not think that we are keeping silent or that we accept what is happening. We reject these measures and the secret negotiations transcending the political settlement and its foundations.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is it true that Qaddumi now represents a minority voice inside PLO frameworks?

[Qaddumi] That is for the Palestinian people to judge; it has nothing to do with Abu-al-Lutf [Qaddumi]. If the Palestinian people and national forces believe that Abu-al-Lutf represents something, it is up to the Palestinian people.

However, I am operating through an institution, namely through Fatah in my capacity as secretary of its Central Committee and in my capacity as an official in charge of Palestinian diplomacy. I am not just an individual. I actually represent a sweeping tendency among the Palestinian people, who have waited long but still have not gotten any economic development or building of institutions. More importantly, Israel has continued its transgression of containing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and squandering the Palestinian people's national rights. We will not at all comply with any Israeli measure, because that harms the Palestinian people's national rights.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What working method or mechanism will you adopt in the future to resist Israel and those negotiating with it?

[Qaddumi] That is up to us, and we will act in the manner that serves the Palestinian issue.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is a new intifadah needed?

[Qaddumi] The sense of resistance among the Palestinian people must be developed first after that long period of nerve-racking resistance. A rest is needed. We believe that this is a rest period, and the Palestinian people will use all means to resist the Israeli occupation.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Your position confirms the existence of fundamental differences between you and those leading the political process, first and foremost Yasir 'Arafat.

[Qaddumi] I am one of those leading the peace process. In fact I am the most distinguished one leading the peace process. We are for peace and for the peace process. But we are against concessions and against any negotiations that have no political substance.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But some people believe that the reported differences between 'Arafat and Qaddumi are not fundamental and are actually agreed upon.

[Qaddumi] The proverb says, everyone has his own method. Either of us is working in his own way to serve the homeland. We might differ — that is natural in any democratic institution.

It is clear from all the Executive Committee meetings held since 16 March that all Palestinian Authority members admit that Israel has undermined the foundations of the process. But the negotiations are still continuing — which is something astonishing at which we should pause and ask: Why this continuation? True, Arab conditions have still deteriorated since the sinister Gulf war. True, there is an imbalance of power. But that does not mean that we should follow that path, since it weakens the Palestinian negotiator and deprives him of any ability to achieve what he is seeking to achieve. This is the main disagreement. We believe that this path has reached an impasse, and we must refer to the people to consult them and ask them whether or not we should continue it. I am of the view that we should stop here. I will urge the Palestinian people not to comply with any agreement as of now. We will not recognize any agreement, because that path is a failure. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told European states at our meeting here in Tunis that he does not trust Israel or its credibility. So why are we continuing the negotiations?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is it not time to call for convening the National Council so that it can have its say and settle the matter conclusively as regards the peace process and the current negotiations?

[Qaddumi] Without doubt the time has come to refer to the people and their institutions in order for them to have their say. Because Israel and the United States are following a line conflicting with the peace process and the foundations on which it was launched. Look and see what the United States, which is the cosponsor of the peace conference with Russia, has done. It is a clear violation of the foundations of the political settlement. We must no longer remain silent. We must very clearly say that Israel and the United States are following an antipeace line in the Middle East, whether on the Palestinian track or the other tracks.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What do you expect from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region? Do you still pin hopes on the current U.S. Administration, especially after its use of the veto on the Jerusalem issue?

[Qaddumi] We expect nothing from the current U.S. Administration, because it is approaching elections. And recent years have proved that it is biased toward Israel. There are also attempts to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. All these attempts prove that the peace process has been undermined as a result of U.S. and Israeli actions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] After your recent visit to Damascus, how do you view the future of Palestinian-Syrian coordination vis-a-vis the peace process, especially as the stage ahead is expected to be difficult?

[Qaddumi] I have from the outset pointed to a key fact, namely that the Palestinian issue is an Arab issue; that it is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict; and that the Palestinian people and their leaders should advance Arab coordination, cooperation, and indeed cohesion. But most regrettably, while we were coordinating, the Oslo agreement emerged to hit Arab coordination. So the cause of the weakness in the Palestinian position is the abandonment of Arab coordination. However, that road must be followed again because it strengthens our cards, otherwise these cards — that is, the negotiation cards — will remain weak and we would have to accept whatever Israel's rulers imposed on the Palestinian people.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There have been reports recently about the existence of a crisis in the PLO Political Department, a financial blockade, and attempts to reduce the number of embassies. What truth is there in this?

[Qaddumi] Many of the offices, embassies, and general delegations belonging to the PLO have received little money over the past 14 months. We began only recently to pay the salaries. Actually the National Fund pays us nothing, which is why I have begun to contact good forces to collect money in order to pay embassy employees their salaries since December 1994. I have managed to obtain some money from friendly states. Despite our insistence that this is the PLO's task and that the National Fund, which has the money, should pay the needed sums, regrettably, no orders have been issued to pay these sums. The matter is now very clear.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There is information saying that some Arab and international quarters are now going over the PLO's head and sending invitations direct to the Authority. If that is true, does it not represent a prelude to withdrawing recognition from the PLO?

[Qaddumi] If there are some states [doing that] or if there are some deviant cases, they are violating international conventions, because the 4 May 1994 stipulates that the PLO acts on behalf of the Authority in the negotiations and with regard to the signing of agreements. No state should go over the PLO's head. Because we are called Palestine in the United Nations, and I do not believe that any state that respects itself would do that.

'Arafat's Talks With Germany's Kohl Reported

AU0806164095 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 8 Jun 95 pp 1, 2

[Report attributed to 'ulf': "Kohl Offers 'Arafat One-Off Development Contribution of 10 Million Marks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jericho, 7 June — Chancellor Kohl visited Yasir 'Arafat in the autonomous Palestinian regions today. In Jericho, he offered 'Arafat a one-off development aid contribution of 10 million marks [DM] for the Palestinian authority, which is suffering from an acute shortage of funds. After his talks with 'Arafat, Kohl said that although Germany was paying 28 percent of the EU's contribution toward the development of the autonomous regions, he is "fully aware that we must encourage additional specific projects." Speaking on this subject, Seiters, deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union Bundestag group, said in Jericho: "This is further clear proof of Germany's concern to achieve progress in the peace process in the Middle East." At the same time, Kleinert, general business manager of Daimler Benz, presented 'Arafat with a "memorandum of understanding" [English term used] for the construction of a regional airport in the Gaza Strip. After his meeting with 'Arafat, Kohl was awarded an honorary doctorate by the philosophical faculty of Ben Gurion University. In the meantime, it was announced in Jerusalem that Finance Minister Waigel will travel to Israel within the next few weeks to brief the Israeli finance minister and a Palestinian representative on the ways in which Germany can assist in various projects. Following a further talk with Prime Minister Rabin and an audience with President Weizman, Kohl ends his Middle East trip tomorrow.

Kohl, who last received 'Arafat in Bonn in December 1993, described his talks with the Palestinian leader as "friendly and constructive." The talks focused on the difficulties with the economic development of the Palestinian areas and the hostility toward 'Arafat. Referring to those who are opposed to the peace process, Kohl said: "This is the time in which the demagogues are doing their work. But in the past, demagogues have wrought nothing but harm." He said it is his wish that "this region, which has experienced so much bitterness, should finally find peace." He hoped that his meeting with 'Arafat would "provide some measure of optimism for the people in this region. If it does, my visit will have been more than worthwhile." 'Arafat delivered a short speech praising Kohl's visit. "It is of historic importance in the peace process," he said.

Participants in the talks reported that although 'Arafat thanked Kohl for the German assistance so far, he nevertheless combined his thanks with a simultaneous request for even more assistance in view of the poor economic situation, especially in Gaza. 'Arafat indirectly likened German support for Israel with German support for Palestine.

Kohl pointed out to 'Arafat that in addition to the present DM10 million aid payout, German help was "raised substantially" in 1994, so that it has now reached a total of DM78 million. Germany is one of the most important donor countries of the Palestinians. Of the total $2.4 billion in development aid that has already been offered for the period 1994 to 1998, $600 million comes from the EU, and 28 percent of this latter sum comes from Germany. This is in addition to the assistance provided by Germany alone. Because many countries have not paid their aid contributions directly to the Palestinians on account of faulty administrative procedures, the autonomous areas are in danger of economic collapse.

Daimler-Benz wants to prepare a study into the construction of a regional airport in Gaza "at its own expense and risk." The company will present a concept for financing the project three months after the signing of the relevant memorandum. According to the German delegation, the federal republic will not be financially involved in the project.

German Team Visits Orient House

JN0906100495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Jun 95 pp 1, 7

[All German names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem, the Press Office — On 6 June, a high-level German delegation, led by Peter Denginz, chief of the Middle East and Near East Department at the German Foreign Ministry, visited Orient House. The delegation also included Van Hudsel, Osotsky, and Mr. Koplar, head of the German mission to the National Authority.

The delegation met with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, Engineer Ibrahim al-Daqqaq, and Dr. Muhammad Ishtayyah.

The Palestinian side briefed the guest delegation on the constant Palestinian stand toward Jerusalem, as well as the difficulties experienced by the city and its people as a result of the cordon around it, the difficult economic situation, and the spread of unemployment as a result of the closure. The Palestinian side also briefed the German delegation on educational conditions in the city.

The Palestinian side demanded that European nations, the Germans in particular, support Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem directly through bilateral agreements with Arab establishments in the city. The Palestinian side also briefed the German delegation on the difficult situation experienced by these institutions.

For its part, the German delegation stated its country's position on Jerusalem, which considers it part of the occupied territories. The delegation stressed the need to pursue the peace process, saying that there is no alternative to this to achieve stability in the region. The delegation also pointed out that there should be direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis on Jerusalem. The Palestinian side stressed the need for such negotiations, but said the Israelis are not cooperating. They refuse to start negotiations on Jerusalem immediately.

'Abd-al-Shafi Announces Formation of New Movement

JN0806134695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1010 GMT 8 Jun 95

[From the "With the Midday Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi announced the formation of a new party in the territories. Yasir 'Atilah, our correspondent for West Bank affairs, is with us in the studio, and he has more details on this subject.

[Begin recording] ['Atilah] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi began his statement by announcing the formation of the Palestinian Democratic Construction Movement [harakat al-bina' al-dimuqrati al-filastini]. He spoke about the reasons that led the movement's founders to announce it.

['Abd-al-Shafi] The founders of this movement, which we are going to announce now, and those who work for establishing democracy in Palestinian society believe that the Palestinian people cannot overcome their long-standing problems and suffering without the implementation of democracy and commitment to democratic practice.

['Atilah] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that it is important to find the means so that the Palestinian people become the decisionmakers. We asked him: Does this mean that these means are not available? He replied that he cannot say that the current practices are democratic. He added:

['Abd-al-Shafi] In the medium term, this movement aims to have elections that produce legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people.

['Atilah] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that this movement will participate in the elections that will be held in the territories if conditions are met, such as freedom of these elections, and that the right be given to all inhabitants of the territories, including those of Jerusalem, to take part in the elections, and holding the elections on the basis of sound representation basis that reflects the free will of the masses. What is the movement's position on the Oslo agreement and the PLO?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all, according to the bylaws, we consider the PLO the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian people regardless of what it seems to be its absence from the arena at present. Probably, our recognition is a call on the PLO to rise to the level of its responsibility and to be present in all that is now taking place. We said that we are committed to our national objectives of self-determination, the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, and securing the refugees' rights as stipulated in the UN resolutions. Beyond this, we are not interested in Oslo or anything else.

['Atilah] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the Democratic Construction Movement is not a party that competes with the authority, and has no goals of assuming power. But he said its members will not be prevented from nominating themselves to any post. He added:

['Abd-al-Shafi] We cannot consider ourselves an opposition in the traditional meaning of the word. Our objectives and aspirations are very clear, and we will work for realizing these objectives and we will oppose the authority if it does not commit itself to these principles and objectives.

['Atilah] This movement was proclaimed at a news conference held at the National Hotel in eastern Jerusalem. The news conference was attended by some representatives of Palestinian factions and parties, and diplomats accredited to Jerusalem. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Calls For Release of All Security Prisoners

TA0806172195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni said it would be a big mistake if an Israeli-PLO agreement is signed on an interim arrangement that does not include the release of all the Palestinian security prisoners. The prisoners, for their part, threaten to start a hunger strike in the middle of the month. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] Some 6,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees are still kept in Israeli prisons despite the Oslo accords, 'Isa Qaraqi', head of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, said. The club held a news conference in its East Jerusalem branch with the participation of al-Husayni and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset Member Hashim Mahamid. Qaraqi' said that the Palestinian prisoners will boycott the elections for the autonomy council if they are not freed. The security prisoners also threaten to start an unlimited hunger strike in mid-June. I asked al-Husayni whether an agreement can be reached between Israel and the PLO by 1 July, without resolving the prisoners' problem.

[Al-Husayni] I think that if an agreement is reached without the release of the prisoners it would be a big mistake.

[Ben-Menahem] Is Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] bringing all the issues involving prisoners up with the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, he is raising them and will continue to do so in the future.

[Ben-Menahem] The Palestinians say that keeping the prisoners and detainees in jail harms the peace process and strengthens the extremists. They called on international bodies to intervene and to pressure Israel to release all the security prisoners. [end recording]

Hamas Statement Criticizes U.S. Moves

JN0806182295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the monthly anniversary of the glorious intifadah, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement condemning the complete U.S. bias to the Zionist entity and the plan to transfer the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

The movement voiced regret over Jordan's decision to deport Hamas leaders Musa Abu-Marzuq and 'Imad al-'Alami from Jordan.

In its statement, Hamas praised the heroic operations the resistance carries out in southern Lebanon and called for halting the repressive measures 'Arafat's authority carries out against our people. Hamas asked God to have mercy on hero Hamid Yaghmur who was martyred in Hebron, condemned the 'Arafat authority's repressive course, and called on it to release all detainees and cancel the unjust sentences issued by the so-called state security court.

Hamas called for staging a strike on 9 June on the occasion of the 91st month of the intifadah, considering 17 June as a day for escalating the struggle against the occupation forces and the herds of settlers on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the al-Buraq revolution heroes, and for expressing solidarity with the hero detainees of our people.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, also called for staging protest marches and demonstrations on 26 June against the settlements policy and the confiscation of land and to consider 27 June as a day for expressing our people's commitment to Jerusalem on the anniversary of the illegal annexation decision.

Beirut Sources Say Hamas To Form Political Party

MM0706134295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by 'Ali Nun in Beirut and Jamal Khashuqji in London: "Hamas Debate Focusing on Party Announcement and Operations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fundamentalist sources in Beirut told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has informed some Palestinian opposition factions that it was about to become a political party, which would be officially announced in Gaza within days. What is more important than that, the sources said, is that Hamas will announce the suspension of military operations, dissolve the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, its military organ, and join the institutions of the National Authority. They added that this major change was the result of recent lengthy discussions between the movement's leaders. Other fundamentalist sources in Beirut could not confirm that information. Palestinian sources in Gaza contacted by AL-HAYAH from London only said that a debate was in progress in Hamas about future activity.

The fundamentalist sources in Beirut told AL-HAYAH that Hamas's first-line leaders received a message from its founder, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is in an Israeli prison, requesting the announcement of these measures, and that consultations were held with other Palestinian fundamentalist groups on this matter but they refused to go along with Hamas.

Hamas sources contacted by AL-HAYAH from London accused President Yasir 'Arafat of sponsoring and financing the formation of an Islamic political party to "pull the rug from under the feet of Hamas and exploit the current dialogue within the movement on the question of forming a political party in the areas of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]."

The source [as published] said that on the question of jihad "there has been no retreat from it and nothing new regarding it. Hamas cannot abandon it in the occupied territory even if it agreed not to mount operations from the autonomy areas against Jews."

Hamas expects the announcement of the party within days. It will be led by Shaykh Khadr Muhjiz, who once belonged to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood but then split from them. Muhjiz is considered one of the most prominent candidates to lead that party. Hamas sources describe the other names "as completely unknown in Gaza circles. They include Ayman Farawnah, Akram Shabit, Zuhayr al- Kahlut, 'Imad al-Hawr, Hijazi al-Qassab, Khalid al-'Abbash, and Khalid Khadr, Muhjiz's son." Some Hamas sources say that some of those "were deceived, or their names were included in the party membership without prior consultation with them."

Shaykh Muhjiz had, after the declaration of the autonomy authority, together with 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Susah and in cooperation with Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat], formed a police vice squad. Abu-Susah was once a wanted member of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. He returned to Gaza after the declaration of the autonomy authority. That squad enjoyed the support of the Palestinian security authorities.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Official' Syrian Source Claims 'Secret' Talks

TA0806131895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by correspondent Orli Azulay-Katz in Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Secret contacts are in progress between Israel and Syria in various European capitals in an effort to reach a peace treaty," an official Syrian source in Paris told me yesterday. He said that the talks are being conducted by "unofficial but authorized people — businessmen and academics — who report on the talks to their governments and receive guidelines from them." The Syrian source claims that "there is room for optimism."

Several days ago, on his way from Morocco to Boston, Foreign Minister Peres stopped over at Paris airport and according to diplomatic sources, received a report from the Israelis participating in the talks. Peres also has another secret track with Syria: Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas' daughter. Ms. Talas denied reports that she is involved in mediating between Syria and Israel, but it has been learned from an official Israeli source that Peres had visited her home in January 1995 and other Syrians — including one who owns a large chain of hotels in France and who also has close ties with Hafiz al-Asad — were apparently present. Talas' daughter told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last week: "Everyone will soon have reason to be happy," but refused to go into details.

When I told the Syrian source with whom I spoke last night that Yitzhaq Rabin had denied there were secret meetings, he replied: "Rabin must deny them for them to succeed; Oslo was also denied."

The EU Council will hold a special meeting in two months to discuss Mediterranean countries. Syria and Lebanon, which have so far refused to take part in these discussions, announced earlier in the week that they will send representatives to the meeting.

Rabin arrives in Paris next week for what is called "a tour of the Air Show," but he will also have political meetings with President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppe. Rabin will be in Paris for 48 hours, and according to rumors in Paris, he will also hold secret meetings which are not included in his official agenda.

Al-Asad Said Not To Change Basic Stands

TA0806182395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the Syrian regime say that so far, President al-Asad has agreed to embark on continuing, businesslike negotiations, but that he has not made a commitment to modify his fundamental stands. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that according to the sources, al-Asad explained that he was giving Rabin a chance to prove the seriousness of his intentions, but that he still believed a breakthrough would be hard to achieve without more vigorous American intervention in matters pertaining to the nature of the arrangements.

Nevertheless, the sources did not rule out the possibility that the talks would be upgraded to the foreign ministers level next month.

Agreement Said Reached on Palestinian Elections

MM0906090295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 95 pp 1,6

[Unattributed report: "Agreement To Hold Palestinian Elections Immediately after Israeli Redeployment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Informed Palestinian sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Palestinians and the Israelis have agreed on the redeployment of Israeli forces in all the occupied territory at the beginning of next month and on holding the elections immediately after that.

The people of Arab Jerusalem will vote, but the fate of Jerusalem will be subject to independent negotiations agreed upon by the two sides in principle.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides yesterday agreed on the transfer of powers from the Israeli occupation administration to the National Authority.

The Palestinian sources said that German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Jericho left a positive impression. Kohl, after consultation with the new French President Jacques Chirac, promised to aid the National Authority and also to submit a report to the meeting of the seven industrial states on 15 June in Halifax.

Kohl noted that unemployment in the autonomy areas, reaching 58 percent of the work force, was a threat to stability and, therefore, the National Authority should receive aid in order to solve these problems.

Kohl heard a report on the Palestinian economic situation from local and foreign businessmen. He told them that Germany alone was providing 28 percent of the European Union's aid for the National Authority but promised to try to provide more aid.

Despite the very positive atmosphere of agreement with the Israelis and Kohl's visit, the Palestinian officials have been cautious. Some of them would not dismiss the possibility that Israel might exploit the situation to implement its plans for Jerusalem or elsewhere. They said that the in-depth negotiations on the transfer of power and redeployment may not be as easy as the general agreement on principles.

Rabin Meets Palestinian Security Heads on Cooperation

TA0906104195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by HA'ARETZ correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has recently met with several heads of the Palestinian Preventive Security and the Palestinian intelligence organizations, as part of his efforts to promote cooperation in the war on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad terrorism.

Rabin's meeting with the heads of the Palestinian security services was preceded by senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers' meetings with 'Arafat; one of the officers was Southern Command Chief Sha'ul Mufaz. These meetings aimed to inform 'Arafat that unless the PLO pursued a serious struggle against the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror, the entire peace process would collapse.

In the wake of these meetings, an encounter was arranged between the prime minister and several chiefs of the Palestinian security services. The meeting was attended, among others, by General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian security forces; Amin al-Hindi, the General Intelligence chief; and Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Preventive Security Service.

Algeria

Prime Minister Discusses Government Press Policy

LD0806224895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi today at the Palais des Nations at Club de Pins presided over a meeting which included public and private press officials as well as officials of printers and contribution funds. Prime Minister Sifi in his intervention, highlighted the role of the press in the current stage of the country. He also talked about the economic situation and the difficulties encountered by this sector particularly in the current stage which is characterized by the move to the market economy.

Replying to numerous questions about raising the prices of print starting with the price of the newspapers, Sifi stressed the attention the government has been giving to the press sector and the government desire to find a solution which takes into account the interests of the publishers and printers alike. [passage omitted]

FIS Leaders Insist Regime Accept National Covenant

MM0806104295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Kebir: We Want Real Democracy; Haddam: National Covenant Our Choice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the [Islamic Salvation] Front [FIS] Executive Committee Abroad, has stressed that Algeria needs a real democratic solution. While Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission Abroad, said that the national covenant is the solution if the Algerian regime wants to resolve the crisis.

This came in exclusive statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by Kebir and Haddam, who were replying to statements made by Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri in The Hague, in which he said that it is possible to lift the ban on the FIS if it renounces violence and respects the Constitution and the law.

Kebir said that "the elections were held in 1991, and it was the authorities, not the FIS, which rejected them — which means that the FIS accepted pluralism and the principle of changing the authorities through free elections, through the ballot box."

Kebir added: "As for what we want to happen, once again we believe that the FIS was unjustly disbanded merely because it won the elections. The authorities, who are trying to give people the impression that they are seeking free elections, are the same authorities who suppressed the people's choice. Nevertheless, the FIS appreciated the responsibility laid on its shoulder, so it extended its hand — with the opposition parties — to the authorities through the national covenant for the sake of halting the destruction of Algeria, restoring civil peace, and allowing the Algerian people to have their say in full freedom after eliminating the pressures exerted on them now."

He also said that "if the authorities have now learned a lesson from the invalidation of the elections and are seeking to invoke the democracy principle through free elections, all they have to do is open the door in Algeria and meet with the opposition parties, including the FIS, in order to negotiate to draw up a real plan that allows the elimination of terrorism, the restoration of peace to the country, and then a democratic change of authority by referring to the people."

On the reasons for the appeal-initiative made by the foreign minister and the FIS' view of it, Kebir said, "it is unreasonable to talk about that while FIS leaders are excluded from the picture. The prime minister said once that they were in prison, but he backtracked the following day. What we are demanding is for the authorities to show seriousness, and we are willing [to cooperate] for the sake of Algeria's interests and prosperity."

Responding to Dembri's statements, Haddam said that "we ask: Who is he? Did they respect the Constitution? As far as we are concerned, the regime is illegitimate. It is they who violated the Constitution. So how can they speak in the Constitution's name. The FIS does not need to be recognized by an illegitimate party, because it is the majority party, and it will remain so until the people choose another party if they want to."

Asked about the elections, he said that he "supports the statements made by the Socialist Forces Front in Algeria, namely that the elections will be conducted without opposition and without voters." Haddam stressed that "no elections can be held in such conditions. And all those maneuvers are designed to split the ranks of the main opposition, namely the parties signatory to the Rome document. Everyone is refusing to engage in that adventure, which is aimed at granting legitimacy to those who are illegitimate. So no elections can be held in these conditions. How can the people, who were accused of negligence three years ago, enter the elections after what happened."

On the FIS' strategy for replying to the regime, Haddam said, "I would like to emphasize and stress that, if they want a political solution, I think elections are a political solution. They have to [adopt] the national covenant document agreed by the opposition in Rome. We consider this covenant a semi-national accord achieved by the main opposition parties. The regime is required to take this covenant seriously if it is seeking a political solution, otherwise the jihad will continue."

French Trade Figures With Africa Provided

95AF0078A Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Mar 95 pp 674-677

[Unattributed article: "France's Trade With Africa in 1994: Imports Stagnate, Despite Some Airplane Sales; Imports Pick Up Again; Morocco Still Main Supplier; Algeria Still Number One Customer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second consecutive year, France's CIF/FOB trade balance recorded a surplus thanks to a rise in exports (+10.7%) that, in terms of percentage, was slightly higher than that for imports (+9.6%). The overall surplus only declined 5 billion francs; as for the percentage by which imports were covered by exports, it only went from 102.8 to 102.1%.

The trend in sales was a general one. The most noticeable trends were recorded with the European Economic Community (+12.4%)—which is not surprising—and also with the Far East (+16.7%)—which is more so.

The increase in foreign purchases as well was a general one. However, one major exception can be noted, the Near East (-6.5%), which might just be transitory. As table 1 shows, it was the European Union (+13.4%), the other European countries (+11.2%), North America (+10.4%), and especially Latin America (+17.4%) that expanded their deliveries to France in 1994 the most. (See table 1.)

It might be said that trade with Africa saw a trend comparable to that for all of France's foreign trade. But that trend was a lot less clear. Exports to the African continent only grew 2.6%; the rise in imports was greater (+8.3%) but it too remained below average. After the disastrous year of 1993, we have not returned to the trading levels we had been accustomed to up through 1992. Furthermore, Africa's share again declined.

This decline was a good deal more pronounced in exports (6.2%, as compared with 6.7%) than in imports (4.6%, as compared with 4.7%). The coverage percentage as well (138.7%, as compared with 146.6%) also contracted. (See table 2.)

Imports: The Country-by-Country Trend

Overall, if the trend in French imports from Africa was fairly notable in relation to the previous year, it was far from being uniform. Certain countries even saw their shipments to France contract; such was the case especially of Libya (-3.6%), Gabon (-10.4%), and especially Egypt (-23.8%).

The most dramatic trends were recorded by Nigeria (+39.1%)—doubtless because of oil—Madagascar (+33.7%)—which, it is true, had fallen very low—South Africa (+16.4%), and Senegal (+15.4%).

Growth was more moderate in the case of Cameroon (+11.4%), Cote d'Ivoire (+9.9%), Tunisia (+9.5%), Morocco (+9.2%), and Algeria (+6.4%).

This increase was negligible when it came to Mauritius (+1.4%). (See table 3.)

Trends by Product

With the exception of oil and petroleum products, whose receipts remained stable both in quantity and value, most of the main French imports from Africa increased. Those trends were:

- relatively modest when it came to fruit, canned fish, and clothing (between 8 and 11%);
- more substantial when it came to cocoa and ores (17 to 18%);
- much more pronounced in the case of timber (46%) and especially coffee (62%).

It will be seen that the growth, in value, of cocoa and coffee imports was accompanied by a reduction in the quantities imported. On the other hand, the per unit price of hosiery items declined.

Declines were relatively few and not very pronounced. They affected mainly vegetables (-4%), inorganic chemical products (-4%), and sugar (-7%). In those three cases, the declines were due in large measure to a drop in per unit prices.

Main Imported Products

Classifying the four main categories of products imported from Africa did not undergo any changes in relation to 1993: combustibles and fuels continued to be a good deal ahead of clothing, hosiery, and fruit.

The following, however, increased:

- timber (+3.6%), at a cost to inorganic chemical products (2.3%);
- coffee (3.0%) and ores (2.1%), which did better than vegetables (1.1%) and canned fish (2.0%);
- cocoa (1.7%), which moved ahead of sugar (1.6%);
- aluminum (1.4%).

Africa's Share of Imports

Africa's share of France's imports, which was particularly small overall (4.6%), did however exceed 20 percent in 1994 when it came to combustibles and fuels (20.1%), ores (22.9%), vegetables (23.3%), canned meat and fish (24.3%), sugar (25.9%), coffee, tea, and spices (29.0%), and clothing (30.3%).

This share was greater than 10% in the case of inorganic chemical products (10.6%), fruit (14.4%), cocoa (15.3%—which is relatively little), hosiery (17.7%), and timber (18.3%).

It also exceeded the average in the case of aluminum (5.6%). (See table 4.)

Main Suppliers

The classification scheme for France's main African suppliers did not undergo any major changes in 1994. Still leading we find Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Nigeria (which advanced), which together accounted for 57% of the total.

Cote d'Ivoire (6.3%) remained in fifth place, far behind the first four and ahead of South Africa (5.2%).

In seventh place in 1993, Gabon (3.9%) was preceded in 1994 by Cameroon (4.1%) and Libya (also 4.1%).

Mauritius (2.8%) surged past Egypt (2.2%), which in turn was followed by Madagascar (2.0%), which last year did better than Senegal (1.2%).

Imports from other countries only accounted for 10.9% of the total. (See table 5.)

Exports: Variations by Country

We have seen that overall French exports to Africa only increased 2.6% in 1994.

This quasi-stability was also the result of deeply divergent movements.

Very strong declines were recorded for countries such as Tunisia (-11%), Cameroon (-16%), Cote d'Ivoire (-16%), Egypt (-18%), Nigeria (-20%), Congo (-22%), Gabon (-28%), and Libya (-28%).

Fortunately these declines were compensated for by advances recorded in particular for Morocco (+6%), the Canary Islands (+10%), Algeria (+12%), Reunion (+17%), and Madagascar (+18%).

It may be noted that no country in the franc zone appears on the list above. (See table 6.)

Variations by Product

The slight increase in French exports to Africa noted in 1994 (+8.6%) was wholly due to a fivefold increase in deliveries of aeronautical materiel—shipments which, as we know, vary greatly from one year to the other. All other exports declined.

However, notable gains occurred in the case of essential oils and toilet articles (+12%), fuels (+17%), clothing (+19%), and iron, cast iron, and steel products (+19%).

The growth was a lot less stronger in the area of paper and cardboard (+5%), plastics (+7%), discontinuous synthetic and artificial fibers (+7%), organic chemical products (+7%), and cotton (+8%).

This growth was practically zero in the area of meat and miscellaneous chemical products (less than 1%), electrical materiel, cars, and optical and precision equipment (2%) as well as pharmaceutical products (3%).

Even certain declines were recorded; they were slight in the cases of machines and mechanical equipment and flour and sugar (3 to 4%) but were greater when it came to steel products (-9%), rubber, dairy products, and wheat (-14% each).

Main Exported Products

Despite the relative stagnation of sales, in 1994 mechanical machines and equipment (15.8%), electrical equipment (10.7%), cars (8.9%), and pharmaceutical products (7.0%) remained by far the main products exported by France to Africa. But together these four categories only accounted for 42.4% of the total, as compared with 43.8% the previous year.

Aeronautical materiel (4.3%) has temporarily, it seems, moved into fifth place. This incursion did not change the ranking of iron, cast iron, and steel products (3.1%), plastics (2.3%), miscellaneous chemical products (2.2%), and paper and cardboard (1.7%).

It did make grains (3.8%), dairy products (1.8%), and sugar (1.7%) drop one rank, the decline being greater in the case of optical and precision equipment (2.8%) and rubber items (1.0%, as compared with 1.2% in 1993).

The only products that improved their standing were flour (1.7%), combustibles and fuels (1.5%), organic chemical products (1.2%), cotton (2.1%), and discontinuous synthetic or artificial fibers (1.1%); here we are dealing with products that, as we realize, do not play a vital role in French exports to Africa. (See table 7).

Africa's Share of Exports

We have said that, overall, French sales to Africa in 1994 had only accounted for 6.2% of exports to all destinations.

This relatively modest average was drawn upward by deliveries of cast iron, iron, or steel (10.2%), grains (12.8%), sugar (13.7%), discontinuous synthetic or artificial fibers (14.6%), pharmaceutical products (21.7%), cotton (24.5%), and especially flour (27.4%)—i.e., for the most part not very processed products.

On the other hand, Africa was a marginal outlet for organic chemical products (2.4%), iron, cast iron, and steel (2.6%), toilet articles (2.9%), rubber (3.6%), combustibles and fuels (4.0%), plastics (4.1%), cars (4.8%), paper and cardboard (5.0%), meat (5.4%), and equipment for air navigation (3.6%).

Its share barely varied from the average when it came to dairy products (6.4%), clothing (6.6%), optical and precision equipment (7.0%), electrical equipment (7.4%), mechanical machines and equipment (7.5%), and miscellaneous chemical products (8.3%).

France's Main African Customers

France's five main African customers remained the same in 1994. However Algeria demonstrated its leadership in relation to Morocco and especially in relation to Tunisia—still followed by Reunion and, much further back, Egypt.

In fifth place in 1993, this time Cote d'Ivoire was very largely outpaced by South Africa.

Next in the rankings we can see:

- a nice upward surge by Mauritius, which went past Congo, Cameroon, Libya, Gabon, and Nigeria;
- a clear decline by Gabon, Libya, and Congo; and
- progress for Madagascar if not in rank at least in terms of percentage (cf. table 5).

The Trade Balance

We have seen that the surplus in France's balance of trade with Africa was cut by close to 10% in 1994 but had, nevertheless, remained very high.

As shown in table 8, one-third of this surplus is due to trade with Reunion. Its relative stability was brought about largely by the highly positive trade balances with Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, and South Africa as well.

On the other hand, we can see that trade with Morocco was almost in balance and that deficits were recorded not just with oil suppliers such as Gabon, Libya, and Nigeria especially, but also with members of the franc zone such as Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire.

Besides, in an upcoming article we shall look at the trend—clearly an unfavorable one—in France's trade with the countries of Africa.

Table 1: France's Foreign Trade, 1994

Groups of countries	Amounts (in billions of francs		Variations in percentage, 1994/1993 (percentages rounded off)				percentage of coverage
			Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	
			+	-	+	-	
European Union	752	782	13		12		104.0
Other European countries	129	128	11		7		99.2
Africa	58	80	8		3		138.7
North America	117	100	10		9		85.5
Latin America	27	48	17		7		177.8
Middle East	29	36		6	3		124.1
Far East	129	105	5		17		81.4
Oceania	6	10	20		8		166.7
Miscellaneous	170	2					
Total	1,264	1,291	10		11		102.1

Table 2: France's Trade With Africa

Years	Amounts (in billions of francs)			percentage of coverage	Africa's share (percent)	
	Imports	Exports	Surplus		Imports	Exports
1990	65.9	84.7	18.8	128.5	5.2	7.4
1991	65.9	84.2	18.3	127.8	5.1	7.0
1992	59.3	81.4	22.1	137.2	4.7	6.6
1993	53.2	77.9	24.7	146.6	4.7	6.7
1994	57.6	79.9	22.3	138.7	4.6	6.2

Table 3: French Imports From Africa; Variations in Percent 1993-94

Countries			Products		
Names	Variations (percent)		Product names	Variations (percent)	
	+	-		+	-
Egypt		24	Sugar		7
Gabon		10	Inorganic chemical products		4
Libya		4	Vegetables		4
Mauritius	1		Combustibles and fuels	1	
Algeria	6		Fruit	8	
Morocco	9		Hosiery	10	
Tunisia	10		Canned fish	10	
Cote d'Ivoire	10		Clothing	11	
Cameroon	11		Cocoa	17	
Senegal	15		Ores	18	
South Africa	16		Timber	46	
Madagascar	34		Coffee	62	
Nigeria	39				
All countries	8		All products	8	

Table 4: Principal Products Imported From Africa

Products	Amounts (millions of French francs)	Percentage of imports	
		From Africa	From All Sources
Combustibles and fuels	19,510	33.8	20.1

Products	Amounts (millions of French francs)	Percentage of imports	
Clothing	7,877	13.7	30.3
Hosiery	3,810	6.6	17.7
Fruit	3,229	5.6	23.3
Timber	2,055	3.6	18.3
Coffee, tea, spices	1,704	3.0	29.0
Inorganic chemical products	1,354	2.3	10.6
Ores	1,214	2.1	22.9
Canned fish	1,181	2.0	24.3
Vegetables	1,117	1.9	14.4
Cocoa and preparations	980	1.7	15.3
Sugar	912	1.6	25.9
Aluminum	826	1.4	5.6
Other products	11,855	20.7	
Total	57,624	100.0	4.6

Table 5: France's Main African Suppliers and Customers in 1994

Suppliers			Customers		
Countries	Amounts (in millions of francs)	percent	Countries	Amounts (in millions of francs)	percent
Morocco	11,862	20.2	Algeria	13,355	16.7
Algeria	8,284	14.4	Morocco	12,035	15.1
Tunisia	6,677	11.6	Tunisia	9,846	12.3
Nigeria	6,022	10.5	Reunion	8,074	10.1
Cote d'Ivoire	3,615	6.3	Egypt	4,765	6.0
South Africa	3,011	5.2	South Africa	4,584	5.7
Cameroon	2,376	4.1	Cote d'Ivoire	2,958	3.7
Libya	2,335	4.1	Mauritius	2,545	3.2
Gabon	2,263	3.9	Nigeria	2,528	3.2
Mauritius	1,641	2.8	Senegal	2,001	2.5
Egypt	1,274	2.2	Cameroon	1,680	2.1
Madagascar	1,138	2.0	Gabon	1,632	2.0
Senegal	1,009	1.8	Libya	1,408	1.8
Other countries	6,117	10.9	Madagascar	1,056	1.3
			Congo	997	1.2
			Canary Islands	951	1.2

Suppliers			Customers		
			Other countries	9,497	11.9
Total	57,624	100.0	Total	79,912	100.0

Table 6: French Exports to Africa; Variations in Percentage 1993-94

Countries			Products		
Name of country	Variations (in percent)		Product names	Variations (in percent)	
	+	-		+	-
Libya		28	Dairy products		14
Gabon		28	Grains		14
Congo		22	Rubber		14
Nigeria		20	Iron and steel products		9
Egypt		18	Mechanical machines and apparatus		4
Cote d'Ivoire		16	Sugar		4
Cameroon		16	Flour		4
Tunisia		11	Meat		
Morocco	6		Miscellaneous chemical products		
Canary Islands	10		Electrical equipment	2	
Algeria	12		Automobiles	2	
Reunion	17		Precision equipment	2	
Madagascar	19		Pharmaceutical products	3	
			Paper and cardboard	5	
			Organic chemical products	7	
			Discontinuous fibers	7	
			Plastics	7	
			Cotton	8	
			Toiletries	12	
			Fuels	17	
			Clothing	19	
			Iron, cast iron, and steel items	19	
			Aeronautical materiel	395	
All countries	9		All products	9	

Table 7: Main Products Exported to Africa

Products	Amounts (millions of francs)	Percentage of exports to	
		Africa	Other destinations
Mechanical machines and apparatus	12,614	15.8	7.5
Electrical materiel	8,566	10.7	7.4
Automobiles	7,111	8.9	4.8
Pharmaceutical products	5,573	7.0	21.7
Aeronautical materiel	3,455	4.3	5.6
Grains	3,068	3.8	12.8
Cast iron, iron, and steel items	2,517	3.1	10.2
Optical and precision equipment	2,254	2.8	7.0
Plastics	1,872	2.3	4.1
Miscellaneous chemical products	1.721	2.2	8.3
Cotton	1,656	2.1	24.5
Dairy products	1,434	1.8	6.4
Flour	1,382	1.7	27.4
Sugar	1,376	1.7	13.7
Paper and cardboard	1,347	1.7	5.0
Combustibles and fuels	1,238	1.5	4.0
Clothing	1,144	1.4	6.6
Meat	1,096	1.4	5.4
Iron, cast iron, and steel	1,064	1.3	2.6
Organic chemical products	972	1.2	2.4
Other products	28,455	23.3	
Total	79,913	100.0	6.2

Table 8: France's Balance of Trade With Africa, 1994 (millions of francs)

Deficits		Surpluses	
Countries	Amounts	Countries	Amounts
Madagascar	82	Reunion	7,403
Gabon	631	Algeria	5,071
Cote d'Ivoire	657	Egypt	3,491
Cameroon	698	Tunisia	3,169
Libya	927	South Africa	1,573
Nigeria	3,494	Senegal	992

Deficits		Surpluses	
		Mauritius	904
		Canary Islands	880
		Congo	632
		Morocco	173
		Other countries (balance)	4,989
		Africa	22,288

Egypt

President Mubarak, Rabin Hold Bilateral Talks

NC0906074795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0658 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA) — At the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning, President Husni Mubarak held bilateral talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Their discussions dealt with the peace process, ways to advance the process on all tracks, Egyptian-Israeli relations, and the future of regional cooperation, as well as the future of the region and clearing it of weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to join the Mubarak-Rabin talks later today.

Musa Comments on Talks, Relations

NC0906094895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0850 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the talks held earlier today between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin dealt with key points in the peace process and the situation in the region.

In statements to journalists this morning, Musa added: Egypt and Israel have a genuine desire to turn over a new leaf. We need good working relations to always exist between us because there are many issues to be discussed and we should always listen to each other.

Asked whether President Mubarak will deliver a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to Rabin, Musa said: Let us leave this to President Mubarak and Rabin. You will have the opportunity to ask this at the news conference scheduled for later today.

Replying to a question on whether he expects an agreement between Syria and Israel by the end of this year, Musa said he hopes so. He noted that if such an agreement is reached, it will good for all parties and for the entire region.

Commenting on issues concerning Israel's nuclear program and whether these issues will be discussed in today's talks, he said all topics are up for discussion. Why should we exclude this issue from the talks? He added: We are serious about discussing all the issues that need to be discussed. Our talks are not confined to matters that only please the other party.

Musa voiced Egypt's firm and clear position on the Israeli nuclear program, which it has stated to the international community at the United Nations and at the New York conference on banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons. He said there is nothing new that can be added to Egypt's clear, publicized position.

President Mubarak, Christopher Hold Talks

NC0906082195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0757 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has held bilateral talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the talks. Also present on the U.S. side were Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker.

A tripartite meeting is expected between President Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Christopher when President Mubarak's talks with the U.S. secretary of state are over.

Mubarak, Rabin, Christopher Begin Tripartite Meeting

NC0906090595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0830 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA) — A tripartite meeting began before noon today between President Husni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq

Rabin, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when Rabin joined President Mubarak's meeting with Christopher.

Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan and Israeli Ambassador in Washington Itamar Rabinovich joined the meeting as well.

Trio Holds News Conference

NC0906102095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0930 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has affirmed Egypt's continued support for the peace process until peace prevails in the entire Middle East. President Mubarak described his talks today with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as extremely positive.

President Mubarak made these remarks at a news conference he held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the end of a tripartite meeting they held earlier today.

President Mubarak said the best way to solve problems is to meet face to face. He added that this is the best way to resolve problems and various issues, referring to his recurring meetings with Rabin and Christopher. He also referred to his recent meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, whom he found enthusiastic about achieving peace with Israel. Mubarak expressed the hope that something will be achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track in the coming stage.

President Mubarak emphasized that there is no problem between Egypt and Israel "but there is cooperation between the two countries to continue the peace process and achieve peace in the whole region." He clarified that any problem that emerges is discussed, but it does not shake or freeze the relations between the two countries.

President Mubarak reiterated that his visiting Israel is not a problem or an issue, because there are good relations between the two countries. He asked: Why is this issue raised every now and then even though I meet Rabin here in Cairo frequently?

In his turn, Yitzhaq Rabin voiced his country's commitment to a comprehensive, regional peace. He described the achievements of the past two years as admirable, involving the signing of a declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel, the signing of an agreement between Jordan and Israel, and the current direct discussions on implementing the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Rabin remarked: We have doubtlessly reached the point of no return and will continue until peace prevails in the entire region.

He voiced hope that negotiations with Syria will resume soon and that positive progress will be achieved.

He said he hopes that a new Middle East will be created that is without threats, violence, and terrorism. He referred to his wish to cooperate with the PLO to eliminate terrorism and the enemies of peace.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher described the talks held in Cairo today as serious discussions designed to achieve regional peace.

He expressed hope that progress will occur on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track and that an agreement will be signed by the end of the year.

In this context, the U.S. secretary of state referred to the meeting that will be held between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff in Washington at the end of June to discuss security arrangements.

Christopher pointed out that Egypt and Israel have a long history of ties and long ago signed a peace agreement.

Asked if an agreement will be signed by Israel on one side and Syria and Lebanon on the other, the U.S. secretary of state said that there will not be a single collective agreement, but one agreement between Syria and Israel and another between Lebanon and Israel.

At the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak welcomed Yitzhaq Rabin and Warren Christopher, saying: I believe that we need to meet and solve problems. It is important to meet in a good atmosphere. I held long, private talks with Mr. Rabin and we discussed bilateral ties, the peace process, and how it can be continued. Our talks were positive. I wish to say that whenever there is a problem within the peace process, it is important to meet face to face and discuss what to do. We are accustomed to this.

He added: I have met Rabin several times and also Warren Christopher. I believe this is the only way to make the peace process continue, namely to meet face to face. We are commmitted to peace. We signed a peace agreement with Israel 18 years ago. We backed the Madrid peace conference and indeed made great efforts to ensure that it was held. I believe that Rabin and Christopher know that. We made many efforts with the Palestinians until the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles was produced. We value this declaration. Our support for the peace process will continue until peace prevails throughout the region. Our talks today were positive and were conducted in a very good atmosphere. I am sure that we will continue on the same course until peace prevails throughout the region.

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin then made a statement in which he thanked President Mubarak for hosting the tripartite meeting, which took place in an amicable atmosphere, and thanked Secretary of State Christopher for participating in the meeting. Rabin said that we are all committed to establishing peace in the region. He stressed that Egypt demonstrated courage, vision, foresight, and faith in the possibility of changing the Middle East when it signed a peace treaty with Israel and by safeguarding peace. Egypt, he said, set an example of what can be achieved in the Middle East when a comprehensive peace is established.

Rabin went on: It was a long time from the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt until the Madrid conference and the beginning of the peace negotiations. As Israel's prime minister, I believe that the progress that has been achieved in the past two years was a great accomplishment. Among the features of this accomplishment are the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, accepting the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people; the signing of the Declaration of Principles; the Cairo Agreement; and the beginning of the implementation of the first phase of the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza and Jericho first agreement.

He added: We are now engaged in extremely deep and serious negotiations with the Palestinian Authority [PA] on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He noted that there are some minor difficulties. We fixed 1 July as a deadline, and I can say we will try our utmost to reach this goal. There are some problems, but I believe that we have reached the point of no return in recognizing and implementing the Declaration of Principles in the West Bank.

Rabin expressed hopes that the Syrian-Israeli talks will resume, noting that the Americans will comment on this issue because there is no direct dialogue with the Syrians, unlike the talks with the Egyptians, Palestinians, and Jordanians. He said: We are now in the process of deepening the peace treaty with Jordan. For me, all that has happened is doubtless a colossal change. This indicates that we will do all we can as quickly as possible, and we will consider the various views so that each country in the region can live in peace without war, acts of violence, or terrorism.

Rabin stressed that the biggest problem with the Palestinians at present is the acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by the enemies of peace. He voiced his hope that the PA will be able to control these acts of terrorism, adding: We appreciate the efforts of the Palestinians in this regard. He said that there is no doubt that these efforts will speed up the process of reaching an agreement and changing the situation in the region. Concluding his statement, Rabin said: "I thank President Mubarak. The atmosphere of the negotiations here is good. We discussed the details of the talks on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks."

Christopher then made a statement thanking President Mubarak and expressing his appreciation of Mubarak's role in promoting the peace process and establishing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He noted the Egyptian-Israeli work for the sake of peace, cooperation, and stability in the region. Christopher also thanked Rabin for his contribution to boosting the peace process. He said that Egypt and Israel now stand as two strongholds in defense of peace. He noted that today's meeting will contribute to reviving efforts and hopes for establishing peace in the Middle East. He said that the Palestinian-Israeli talks have restored the momentum and confidence between the two sides. He noted that both parties are currently discussing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, with 1 July as the deadline for implementing the agreement.

Discussing the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, Christopher stressed that the talks between Syria and Israel are entering a new stage and both parties are committed to continuing high-level talks before the end of this year. He said that he will discuss this issue during his visit to Damascus on Saturday [10 June]. He said that we must take advantage of this great opportunity and added: One of the things that we must do is find an economic base for the steps toward peace that have been taken so that the people of the region can reap the fruits of peace.

Replying to a question on the guarantees that the 1 July deadline for starting the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank will be met, Yitzhaq Rabin said that this is not a period of time, but a targeted deadline and we must differentiate between the two.

He added: We do not want to go into details, but we are committed to the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank in two stages. The first stage will enable the Palestinians to hold elections however they decide, and we will not interfere in the way the elections are held. The second stage will include more redeployment of forces; but the problem is how to work out an agreement, not only regarding the first stage but also the second one.

The Israeli prime minister went on: As for us, we are content with reaching a regional agreement. As for the first stage, we are content with facilitating the elections and bringing forward the date and discussing the second stage later, the redeployment of forces stage.

Rabin added: The Palestinians want an agreement on the two stages now. This might cause some delay. We will try our best, but there are no guarantees. However, we and the Palestinians are now discussing the agreement. I believe that we are committed to its implementation.

Answering a question on whether there is an agreement with 'Arafat to combat terrorism in the future, Rabin said: We look at the PA as an authority in the area under its control. In the past few months, the PA as well as the Palestinian security organs that deal with this type of terrorist action have become more effective.

Rabin added: I heard from Palestinian officials that these terrorist actions are carried out by the enemies of peace in order to impede the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said: Terrorism today is the main obstacle to progress. I must explain to the Israelis why the peace I promised them has not been achieved and why there have been terrorist actions instead. He added: We want to achieve peace for the sake of both sides, who must meet their commitments and will do so.

Asked whether the Syrians are serious about signing a peace agreement before the Israeli and U.S. elections, President Mubarak said: I believe that the Syrians and President al-Asad are very serious about wanting to reach a peace agreement.

On a possible collective agreement that would include both Syria and Lebanon, President Mubarak said that he had spoken about this with President al-Asad, but the latter said that neither the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks will make progress if there is no progress on the Syrian track.

President Mubarak added: But I believe that President al-Asad is more relaxed at this time and more willing to proceed with the peace process, possibly because he feels that there has been a good response from the Israeli side. I hope that something will be reached. But I cannot say if this will happen before or after the Israeli and U.S. elections.

Commenting on the same question, Christopher said: My expectations are that there will be separate agreements between Syria and Israel and between Israel and Lebanon, not a collective agreement. There are close links between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, but I am confident that there are separate agreements.

Responding to a question about the return to normality of Egyptian-Israeli relations, President Mubarak said that basically there are not problems between Egypt and Israel. We are in fact cooperating for the sake of the peace process. He added: The relations between any two countries in the world can be briefly clouded over. However, this does not mean that relations have been frozen or have become lukewarm, as depicted in the media.

Continuing, President Mubarak said that sometimes misunderstandings can occur between two countries over a specific issue. However, such misunderstandings are usually patched up when meetings and exchanges of views take place, and there is no problem between Egypt and Israel.

To a question by MENA on whether President Mubarak will ask the United States to play a mediation role between Egypt and Israel with regard to the Israeli nuclear program, President Mubarak said: We are not seeking mediation as long as there are diplomatic relations with Israel. However, this matter should not be discussed in public. He added: We might deal with this problem, but we will not discuss it with the press.

Asked how he convinced Rabin to visit Cairo even though President Mubarak has not visited Israel, Christopher said that Egypt and Israel enjoy a long history of bilateral relations. He pointed out that the two countries were the first in the Middle East to sign a bilateral peace agreement. Both are working to expand and augment the circle of peace, Christopher added.

Christopher remarked: Accordingly, I encourage them to meet together. I have come to Cairo, as I usually do during my trips to the Middle East, to meet with President Mubarak. I asked Rabin to come with me and he welcomed it. I am pleased that he has come with me; the talks were extremely good.

In his comments, Rabin said that he has not raised the issue with President Mubarak and that he knows that when President Mubarak decides to visit Israel, he will be welcome. It is up to President Mubarak to set a suitable date, Rabin added.

President Mubarak remarked: I have absolutely no problems concerning this issue. I have said this very often. We have very good diplomatic relations with Israel. We in Egypt and Israel are committed to the peace process. Why are you raising a clamor about this issue? Is it not better for us to meet here than somewhere else? I may visit Israel sometime to continue the negotiations.

In response to a question about U.S. efforts to surmount the obstacles on the Syrian-Israeli track, Christopher said that both parties are working hard and have a renewed sense of urgency. They realize that they must hurry up and concentrate on the negotiations now. He said that it is difficult to speculate about the results of these negotiations, particularly predicting when they will reach agreement. Obviously, the two parties have an essential need to expedite the peace process. He expressed his satisfaction with the process.

Asked if he has specific proposals for Damascus and Tel Aviv to advance the peace process in light of the common understanding on the security arrangements that they recently reached, Christopher said that both countries have formulated a working program to prepare basic principles regarding the security measures. Military officials of both countries have agreed to meet in Washington before the end of this month to resume the talks on the important security measures. He stressed that the United States will assist both sides in this respect.

Asked if there are specific proposals, Christopher said that this issue is left to the two parties and to their military officials. He asserted that the United States will continue to play its role in helping the parties and facilitating things for them.

During the news conference, President Mubarak answered a question about President al-Asad's readiness to reach a peace agreement. He said: We did not go into details, but I can tell you that President al-Asad has the will and is ready to reach peace when there is a way.

Asked what will happen if the agreement on the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank has not been implemented by 1 July, Rabin said: I have said — and I repeat — that this is a target. We will make sincere and intensive efforts to meet this goal. We are committed to implementing the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. Let us look at things seriously — what we have done, what we will do, and what we will carry out. He added: I recall that here in Cairo and in Taba we discussed the first phase; and it did not take us three months to reach an agreement as we had planned, but eight months. However, we eventually reached the goal. The same thing applies to the second phase: It will be implemented.

The news conference was also attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Head of the Presidential Office Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Musa Welcomes Saudi-Yemeni Border Agreement

NC0806135895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1315 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA) — Egypt today welcomed the recent Saudi-Yemeni agreement on the issue of their borders.

This was announced by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who commented on the declaration made in Jeddah yesterday following the talks between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, about the two countries' decision to renew the border agreement without any changes and to form several committees to strengthen Saudi-Yemeni relations.

Musa described the agreement as a positive step within the framework of improving the situation in the Arab world.

He stressed that Egypt salutes this positive step and welcomes the border agreement between Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman. He said that this agreement is also a positive step that positively augments action to rectify the Arab situation.

Dismissal of Central Security Commander Denied

NC0806153695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1445 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA) — Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi denied a report published in an opposition paper that said to the effect that the Central Security commander has been dismissed from his post. He stressed that the report was completely baseless.

In a statement today, the interior minister said that Major General Mahmud al-Qadi, former Central Security Forces commander, was appointed assistant minister for the Security Forces sector. It was noted that he has substantial experience that was gained through years of service in the Central Security Forces in preparing recruits that are highly efficient and effective. Furthermore, he has experience in training and in using modern, advanced theories of highly and uniquely efficient planning, coordination, deployment of forces, and confrontation.

The interior minister stressed that the changes were part of the need to meet the present demands of these sectors, enhance security performance, utilize expertise and capabilities, and to exchange positions to achieve the Interior Ministry's strategic objectives, noting that the ministry pays much attention to the police recruits sector.

Minister al-Alfi called on the press to check their reports for accuracy before publishing them.

Security Forces Kill Five 'Terrorists'

NC0806162195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA) — A responsible source in the Ministry of Interior this morning said that the Counter International Terrorism Forces, which belong to the State Security Intelligence, killed five fugitive terrorists who were behind the latest acts of violence in Markaz Abu-Qurqas in al-Minya Governorate. In an exchange of fire with the five terrorists, two soldiers were martyred and two police officers and a soldier injured. [passage omitted]

The security source noted that information available to State Security Intelligence showed that a group of terrorists used a residence in the village of Balansurah in Markaz Abu Qurqas as a hideout to plan terrorist operations. After obtaining a permit from the Public Prosecution Office to search the hideout and to apprehend the fugitive terrorists and seize their arms and ammunition, the Counter International Terrorism Forces, in cooperation with the Public Security Forces and the Central Security Forces, surrounded the hideout early this morning. The terrorists began firing at the security forces, who returned fire. In the exchange of fire, two soldiers were martyred and two officers and a soldier were injured, while the five terrorists were killed. The security forces seized three automatic guns, two shotguns, a large quantity of live ammunition, and explosive devices. Also seized in the hideout were papers detailing the organization's plans and monitoring of persons and vital installations.

In the meantime, the State Security Intelligence Forces detained 26 fugitive terrorists in various villages and towns in al-Minya Governorate as part of the security campaign to hunt down the fugitive terrorists. The source also said that the security forces raided numerous dens of fugitive terrorists who were involved in monitoring the movements of persons to assassinate them, conveying assignments, and in giving shelter to fugitive terrorists. The Prosecution Office has begun interrogation.

Usama al-Baz Lectures on U.S. Policy

95LD0068a Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Text] A very frank encounter took place between Dr. Usama al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and the Southern Valley University (Qina) students last Saturday evening [22 April]. This encounter was conducted while students' sentiments were soaring with patriotism inside a region that suffers from lack of services and where unemployment averages are on the increase. The deteriorating conditions of the youth has led to the emergence of widespread protest movements that have reached the stage of carrying arms. This open meeting—with all that the word open connotes—which was conducted by Dr. al-Baz, lasted three and a half hours; female and male students spoke during the meeting with utter patriotism. Dr. al-Baz answered the students' questions with a lot of frankness.

This encounter was organized by al-Salam Students' Group and presided by Dr. Mahmud 'Arif, a professor at the Faculty of Science, and supervised by Dr. Muhammad Ra'fat Mahmud, president of the newly established university. During the encounter, a female student from the Faculty of Arts commented on Dr. al-Baz's remark when he stated that a Japanese writer wrote a book entitled "When will Japan say no to the United States". The student then continued by asking about the time when Egypt could say "no to the United States, particularly as the United States imposes sanctions against the brethren in Iraq and Libya and acts irresponsibly toward Islam and Muslims."

Dr. Usama al-Baz answered immediately by saying: "We will say no to all that is detrimental to our national interests. In the past, we have taken certain stands without much noise or hallucinations. We are working toward a goal: that we should end motives that influence us." All those present applauded Dr. al-Baz's answer.

Doing Away With the U.S. Aid

Referring to the U.S. aid that Egypt receives, which amounts to $815 million annually and which Egypt uses to carry out a number of projects, Dr. al-Baz said: "The aid should not be a sword that is directed toward us. We could do without the aid if we increased our production and tightened our belts a little. In fact, Egyptian production is increasing well in many areas. As an example of that is the increase in our exports of shirts to the U.S. markets. This increase caused a crisis with the U.S. when they felt that Egyptian shirts were flooding their markets. This is because, while our exports of shirts to the U.S. market amounted to 43,000 dozens in 1990, they increased to 483,000 dozens in 1993. At this point, the United States asked that average annual increases in shirt exports not exceed 3 percent; they were afraid that this increase would impact the U.S. shirt industry negatively. However, the issue was settled by the United States allowing the increase of Egypt's exports of shirts to about 1,000,000 dozens annually and a possibility of an annual average increase of 6 percent."

Dr. al-Baz said with regards to the Libyan-Western crisis: "Egypt informed the United States that she could not view her relationship with her sister-country Libya from an U.S. perspective. This is because Egypt and the United States are two countries that could not have identical policies."

Dr. al-Baz directed his talk to the multitude of students saying: "Arab and European countries as well as Japan offer us aid. I do not like to see our country take aid from anybody. We should be prepared to do away with aid 15 years from this day."

Normalizing Relations With Israel

Dr. Usama al-Baz answered a question about Egypt's stand with regards to normalizing relations with Israel after Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, saying: "The word 'normalizing' is an Israeli word. Peace has two denotations—the legal denotation, which means ending the state of war and stopping military actions. The second denotation of the word is the political one, which means establishing, in the future, a state of coexistence between nations. However, there is no version of normalization that subjects any of the sides to abide by it. Even if a neighboring-country relationship exists as well as security arrangements and diplomatic representation, it should not be believed that economic peace should prevail. Israel says: "Peace with Egypt is frigid. However, Israel should realize that nobody can dictate to us a specific type of peace. Nobody can enforce the Egyptian people to be oriented toward Israel."

Dr. al-Baz added saying: "What do we want from Israel? Will Israel export roses to us? Will Israel export technology to us? I believe that Asian technology is both better and cheaper. What is certain, however, is that as much as Israel respects Arab rights, so much will matters be 'normal.'"

Dr. al-Baz then changed the subject to talk about the nuclear treaty. He said: "some say that Egypt stirred the issue of the nuclear treaty so that her role in the region would not become marginal. This explanation is shallow because Egypt's role has never been tied to the peace issue. Egypt does only what accomplishes her interests. With regards to the nuclear treaty, we must have our free choice. However, this does not mean that we should get involved in a battle with the United States in order to prove our freedom of choice and independent will; Egyptian will is not for sale."

Dr. al-Baz continued to say: "When we brought up the nuclear treaty issue, Israel gave two reasons for her protest. First: The chain of peace is not finished, and they could not gamble with Israel's future security. Second: Israel states that she worries about countries in the region possessing nuclear weapons."

Unconvincing Rationale

Dr. al-Baz said: "During our communications with Israel, she said that she was ready to pledge in front of the Security Council not to start a nuclear war in the region. Such rationale is not convincing. The Egyptian demand with regards to this issue was that it was necessary to engage in serious negotiations in order for Israel to adhere to defined obligations for liquidating her nuclear program in order to create a state of balanced security in the region."

Dr. al-Baz said about the possibility of any developments in the Israeli stance that may occur in the coming period: "I do not expect Israel to sign the nuclear treaty."

Dr. al-Baz disclosed the struggle currently happening in the Nuclear Treaty Conference by saying: "The United States and the West would like an open ballot. With regards to this issue, there are three options.

That the treaty be either indefinitely extended, or it be extended for consecutive periods, or it be extended for one period. Both the United States and the West are keen on extending the treaty because they fear that the spread of nuclear weapons would create a kind of imbalance in the new world order. When we discussed our stance vis-a-vis the nuclear treaty with some Europeans, they said that, theoretically speaking, our stance was correct. However, they expressed their fear that those East European countries that possess nuclear weapons and could not get rid of them might sell them; this would pose a danger. On our part, we informed them that we were for the treaty and that we demanded that Israel sign it. We assured them that we would neither quit the treaty nor establish a military nuclear reactor.

Our Stance Vis-a-Vis 9 May

Dr. al-Baz said with regards to the Egyptian stance vis-a-vis the nuclear treaty options that are presented: "Our stance has not yet been decided; we will decide it according to reliable information. On the ballot day (the coming 9 May), we will decide our final stance according to whether world nations have succeeded or not in convincing Israel to vote for the treaty."

Dr. al-Baz then went on to say: "We will put pressure in that direction. We have free movement. We will adopt a well-studied and enlightened stand. However, we will not pressure any country to adopt her stance vis-a-vis the treaty. Every country can choose to vote as it wishes to."

With regards to Egypt's stand in case the nuclear treaty is indefinitely extended, Dr. al-Baz said: "Regardless of voting, as a country signatory to the treaty, we have to abide by the majority's decision. Quitting the treaty puts a lot of obligations on the quitting nation; that nation is prohibited from buying nuclear materials, acquiring technical aid and acquiring technology. When we declare our quitting, this would indicate that we intend building a military nuclear program. That would give Israel an excuse. We will not quit the treaty, yet, we will continue to struggle until Israel joins and signs it."

Dr. al-Baz further indicated that Egypt has many means by which to influence the Israeli stand and thus compel Israel to sign the treaty. Egypt would do that either by directly approaching the Israeli people or getting it done through other parties.

A Majority Is Not Achieved

Dr. al-Baz said: "The United States has not yet gotten a majority vote by which her proposal for the indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty could be passed. I believe this is because communication between the U.S. and other nations to get their endorsement was carried out in a hysterical manner. Besides, many of those countries that have informed Washington about endorsing the United States' demand will not vote in favor of the proposal. Moreover, the style and manner of voting will decide the final stand vis-a-vis the treaty."

Scientific Research Minister Interviewed

95LD0069A Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Research Minister Dr. Venice Kamil by 'Ali al-Qammash; place and date not given — first four paragraphs are AL-SHA'B introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **AL-SHA'B interviews Scientific Research Minister Dr. Venice Kamil. "Our cooperation with Israel is limited. We admire Malaysia as an example of how to narrow the gap between ourselves and the developed world."**

The only way to catch up with the Tigers [East Asian developing economies] and close the gap between us and the developed nations is to devise a national strategy that concentrates on science and stresses the necessity of promoting scientific research and scientists.

Even though scientific research is considered one of the most important pillars of progress and confronts our struggles, Egyptian scientists face so many difficulties and obstacles!

This is why our interview with Scientific Research and Technology Minister Dr. Venice Kamil had such importance.

[Al-Qammash] **There are indications that confirm the lack of coordination between the ministries and scientific research. What have you done to put an end to this?**

[Kamil] Because I belong to the scientific research community, since taking over the ministry I have confronted these problems, the most important of which is the need for cooperation and coordination with the other ministries and the private sector, which plays a particularly vital role in the infitah [Egypt's economic libralization policy] and GATT. One of the clearest and best results of cooperation between ministries was the agreement was concluded with the Health Ministry, which would benefit from applying the research of the Theodor Bilharz Institute, as well as with the Housing Ministry to continue the bilharzia patrol. A research team has, in fact, been formed that will begin an experiment in six villages in Sharqiya Governorate. One of the positive results of this is that the problems of Hulwan will be treated in a thorough way that includes comprehensive development.

[Al-Qammash] **What about the most dangerous problem threatening more than a million citizens who are residents of Hulwan and its environs: cement dust?**

[Kamil] What is more dangerous there than cement dust is that factories are pouring pollutants into the Nile; cyanide is one of the most dangerous poisons. The solution will not be confined to the problem of pollutants: Determining the correct solution will be based on the problems involved, including a study of the factory. Is it operating on sound foundations, beginning at the level of raw materials, or not? To what extent does it comply with environmental laws? If I could reduce pollutants, a large part of the problem would be eliminated without large expense. There is now cooperation with different government agencies. We have made Mrs. Susan Mubarak a partner in this venture, so she could be the honorary president of this national program, which will expand to other areas.

[Al-Qammash] **Will the residents of Hulwan or the accumulated diseases await these studies?** [sentence as published]

[Kamil] For the time being, we do not anticipate the completion of these studies. We have started applying ourselves to the problem of medical trash, whose importance is represented by the two enemies infectious diseases and radioactive materials. We have considered operating special incinerators, in cooperation with the Health Ministry, the public works sector, war production, and the Egyptian Industrial Commission.

[Al-Qammash] **The problem of Al-Muqattam is very serious and threatens thousands of residents. We have learned that the studies have been stopped because of lack of funds. What is the truth?**

[Kamil] This is correct. We have chosen the worst and most dangerous area, which is Al-Duwayqah. Had it not been for this study, and the evacuation of homes at the appropriate time, the landslide disaster would have repeated itself. As for the cessation of studies for financial reasons, we have submitted a request to the Finance Ministry, but they have not answered us. We asked Dr. Mahmud Al-Sharif to pursue the problem with us.

[Al-Qammash] **What about flood channels?**

[Kamil] An integrated group of scientists designated to deal with disasters — God forbid! — has been formed. That group is equipped with an airplane in order to conduct immediate scientific investigations. We are conducting a comprehensive study of all of Egypt. The more these channels change, the more these studies will need financing.

[Al-Qammash] **Does this mean that the financial problem is the obstacle to everything?**

[Kamil] It is one, but not the only, problem. There are also problems with guidance, priorities, and concentration. We need to unite all specialists; completely mobilize researchers, ministries, universities, and other organizations; and prepare and disseminate official announcements. This is what we are trying to do.

[Al-Qammash] **Egyptian antiquities are the most valuable treasures needing the intervention of the Scientific Research Ministry to save them. What is the role of the Scientific Research Ministry in coordinating with the Culture Ministry to save the antiquities, heritage, and civilization of Egypt?**

[Kamil] Every request from the Investment Institute has met with instant cooperation. When the Antiquities Commission asked for our cooperation concerning the hall in the temple of Amenhotep, we responded immediately. We do not hesitate, even though sometimes the financial cost is high because of the airplane and its maintenance, and the production and implementation of official statements.

[Al-Qammash] **However, antiquities are more valuable that any obstacle standing in the way of saving them. Even according to the logic of profit and loss, we would profit greatly if they were saved. The opposite is also true!**

[Kamil] We are not negligent when it comes to doing what we are asked to do, but I cannot suggest to the culture minister any antiquities that need our assistance!

[Al-Qammash] **Does this mean there is negligence on the part of the culture minister?**

[Kamil] They are permitted to have projects and priorities. We live in a country of limited resources with an exploding population that consumes and drains all money for development.

[Al-Qammash] **When will we have a national strategy focusing on science that will make it possible for us to catch up with the developed countries?**

[Kamil] Apart from the coordination between ministries and various government bodies, there is the Supreme Ministerial Committee for Research, Development, and Technology under the leadership of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, which includes 12 ministers and deputy ministers. I am the committee reporter. God willing, there will soon be a meeting to prepare a national strategy that will be known to the masses, not just the ministries. In fact, states that preceded us in drawing up such a strategy have encouraged the private sector to participate in the venture.

[Al-Qammash] **What is the ministry's plan to enable us to catch up with the developed world, as the Tigers are now doing?**

[Kamil] From among the Tigers we have adopted Malaysia as an example that we admire. Malaysia offers a lesson from which we can benefit in order to narrow the gap between ourselves and the developed world. It is necessary to follow carefully conceived plans and to concentrate upon clearly defined matters. Malaysia concentrated upon electronics, communications, and high technology in ways that would be of benefit to these industries. It did not pursue science simply for its own sake, but strove to discover what would serve the needs of industry. These are the sciences upon which it concentrated. Malaysia also concentrated upon having a bureau of standards and strong industrial research. This is how the Malaysians learned quality and measure. They drafted a national plan and insisted upon its implementation. It did not surprise them at all that they became one of the Tigers, a state whose example others would follow. They have a document that is known to the average man in the street: the National Program for the Year 2020. The United States or any other developed state should have similar programs. Implementing this program — which is characterized by strong will, planning and innovation — will require determination. This is something we need.

[Al-Qammash] **But we see that cooperation is taking place with Israel, which has no interest in our advancement. There is one example in the field of scientific research against whose dangers scientists have warned: raising fish on the leftovers from medical drainage in cooperation with the Oceanographic Institute in Suez. Should not cooperation with Israel be considered a danger for us, against which we should be warned?**

[Kamil] Our cooperation with Israel is limited to a few necessities carried out by the Oceanographic Institute, where they are conducting research. We are conducting research here without getting fish from them or vice versa. We only exchange scientific opinions, as would any scientists in the world without political constraints to bind us. It is preposterous that our researchers would do anything to harm the homeland or that they would take anything from them that would do harm to our country. The interest of Egypt is our number-one concern. Because we are Egyptians, neither Israel nor anyone else can change our mind or principles.

Cooperation among scientists, their meetings and science for its own sake without political interference are part of the new logic of the sciences. In my opinion, we in the Scientific Research Ministry are acting extremely sensibly in our dealings with Israel in a very limited number of necessary fields. Rest assured that we would not enter into any doubtful ventures with Israel or discuss them with Israel in any way.

[Al-Qammash] **The cream of our scientists are enriching the entire world with their knowledge. Is it possible to stop our scientists from emigrating in order to promote the advancement of Egypt?**

[Kamil] I cannot say that it will stop, but it will be reduced. It is possible for me to benefit from them because they are there for us unconditionally. What is new, however, is that when I send someone abroad, I do so on the condition that he gives guarantees that he will return. As for someone who is now living abroad, I am asking him to provide training for our youth in joint programs so they will bring their ideas home and form a bridge of continuity in all of specialties. In the field of genetic engineering, we have concluded an agreement with professors living abroad who were appointed adjunct professors in Mubarak City. This will be continued in September. Each of them will have six junior researchers whom they will train there. There are scientists who are participating with us in a number of other programs. We have established a friends association in the National Research Center. God willing, this cooperation will continue.

[Al-Qammash] **What about our scientists living abroad who are working in important and sensitive fields such as Dr. 'Ali Al-Sa'id, who is a specialist in nuclear technology, and other outstanding scientists?**

[Kamil] I recently met Dr. 'Ali Al-Sa'id abroad at a conference. He is a great and distinguished scientist. However, another minister, Muhammad Mahir Abaza, the minister of electricity, is responsible for following developments in Dr. Al-Sa'id's field. That ministry has its own programs. The Minister Abaza works with us on the Ministerial Committee for Scientific Research.

[Al-Qammash] **Isn't scientific research supposed to be integrated?**

[Kamil] Integrated, yes. We can embark upon research programs. I am ready; however, something has to come out of it.

[Al-Qammash] **Even though they have returned home to contribute to the homeland, scientists have to fight battles such as Dr. 'Aliyah Nisar's, head of the anatomy department at 'Ain Shams University Medical School. She specialized in studying cells using an electron microscope. After returning and training nearly 500 scientists, and after 30 years of service to science and research, she was surprised to be removed for no reason from professorial promotion committees!**

[Kamil] I do not know anything about this story. I have nothing to do with the medical school at 'Ain Shams. We cooperate with the university, but they have a dean and a minister who has been designated to solve their problems.

[Al-Qammash] **Another example of the kind of battles our scientists have to fight in this country is what happened the Egyptian Society of Inventors, which is headed by Muhammad 'Isam 'Abd al-Latif. This is a national society that encourages invention and has presented projects to 19 governorates. The most recent one drew the praise from Suhaj and Wadi al-Jadid Governorates. Suddenly, however, the society had to abandon the project and then fight with the Social Affairs Ministry for it.**

[Kamil] We have a specialized office headed by Dr. Sa'adah that deals with all requests for patents. Dr. 'Ali Hubaysh supervises this specialty. I sent them all the information concerning this subject. They are now studying it and will send a response. If any scientific society has problems of this kind, it can submit a request to me. I shall examine it and do all I can within the confines of the law. I shall not hesitate to stand at the side of any scientific society as long as doing so is within the confines of the law.

[Al-Qammash] **Isn't it strange that a scientist would rush to market his invention knowing that marketing is not his specialty, and that this would sometimes put him in an undignified position?**

[Kamil] The role of the ministry is to help the inventor patent his invention, to get it established satisfactorily and to deal with him on a sound engineering basis. If it is tested, for example, and does not break, we have a design center in the academy to help him. We will also help him display his invention at fairs.

Marketing is not my duty. It is up to him to market his invention. He will inform companies about his invention. He has to do the research. We hope that the inventions we receive will have commercial value so that companies will compete for them.

[Al-Qammash] **Researchers at the National Research Center — the face of Egyptian science — suffer from dozens of problems, one of them being foreign travel. Even if several researchers have reached an agreement with foreign scientists, support for them is suddenly cut off, which affects their image and that of the Center. How should foreign travel for researchers be organized?**

[Kamil] We should not believe everything people say! There are clearly defined procedures for travel; I encourage travel and training. It is necessary to advance and know about new things. For this reason, travel will not only be for graduates or those with master's degrees and doctorates, but also for a professor, even if he is the head of the Center. We are trying to find ways to facilitate travel. International efforts in this regard are being made with Germany, Italy, and other countries, as well as with international organizations in accordance with well-defined regulations and agreements. There are also channels of communication and agreements, as well as writings with Egyptians living abroad when they have research projects, available positions, and contracts. We hope that Egyptians living abroad will work with Egyptians instead of other nationalities. The first element of the partnership agreement with the United States is the training of researchers.

[Al-Qammash] **Why have academic appointments for the top graduates been eliminated? And why has there been a return to the scholarship system without a guarantee of an appointment?**

[Kamil] There are no appointments; we took the top graduates on the condition that they were quite outstanding or had a master's degree, so they would have a good opportunity to secure an appointment, but without guarantees that there would be an appointment.

[Al-Qammash] **Researchers have confirmed that academic appointments were previously made during the period of Dr. 'Adil 'Izz and then stopped.**

[Kamil, excitedly] Not even from his time; whoever says that is mistaken! A researcher sometimes looked for additional work. The problem is that the demand for employment has grown and exceeded the limited capacity of the Center. Therefore, it can take only limited numbers. I want to replace a person who leaves with someone else. He will not be appointed or confirmed because we do not have the grades; otherwise, everything would be turned upside down.

[Al-Qammash] **However, would it not be possible to open the back door to academic appointments through projects?**

[Kamil] I wish... this is what we want!

[Al-Qammash] **Would it not be possible to pass those of lower capability and then appoint them as teaching assistants?**

[Kamil] This is impossible because it is conditional upon having very good qualifications at the very least. This standard must be maintained.

[Al-Qammash] **The universities have amended the regulations of promotion committees concerning the number of research projects submitted for publication and the number of referees (21 referees for each researcher). Why has there been no similar change in the Center in order to assure neutrality?**

[Kamil] No. No. First, we apply the University Law, but with a change that suits the nature of scientific research. There are stipulations for members of the promotion committees: Only one person from any place can serve on them; a professor will withdraw if he is the coauthor of research with a researcher whose work is under consideration.

Article Views GATT Impact on Movie Industry

95LD0070A London Al-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 95 p 22

[Article by 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Jabali, scholar in AL-AHRAM's Institute of Political and Strategic Studies: "Egyptian Cinema Under GATT Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian cinema is currently languishing in the doldrums, following the decline of annual production from 150 films to less than 25 in 1994. This has had repercussions on the workers in this vital and important field. There is no secret concerning the effects of this on Egyptian society in general, and the Egyptian economy in particular, because the Egyptian movie industry represents one of the basic sources of national income over relatively long periods of time and plays an important role in spreading Egyptian culture abroad, both in its Arab and African milieus.

Accordingly, the seriousness of the Egyptian cinema's current crisis stems particularly from its coinciding with Egypt's signing of the International Trade Organization [ITO]'s Uruguay Treaty, which has been in effect since the beginning of 1995. This causes us to question the effects stemming from this treaty on the Egyptian movie industry. In other words, will Egypt's membership in the ITO lead to helping resolve the Egyptian cinema's crisis in general, or will it add new problems to the problems from which it already suffers.

Before answering these and other questions, it would be worth our while to mention that the Uruguay Treaty not only limits the freeing up of commodity trade, but also has been extended to cover all aspects of life, such as the law, accounting, medical, distribution, and educational services, and travel and tourism, in addition to cultural and recreational services.

This is where the cinema's relationship to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] comes from, since it is both an "industry" and a service at the same time. The movie industry is based on the existence of many production and distribution companies, apart from import and export activities. Therefore, there is an integrated market for this industry, not to mention the fact that it is an important cultural tool, which shares in forming public opinion and awareness. It can deepen both negative and positive thoughts and values equally well. The cinema has two elements. One of them is commercial/industrial, based on distribution, production, and circulation, while the other is intellectual/artistic and is dependent on the production and spread of ideas.

From this point of departure, the cinema enters fields that have become subject to the ITO, since the treaty has no article that stipulates cultural exclusion, as certain European countries requested. It contains no reference to the special cultural characteristics that distinguish audio and visual products. This means the general principles that the treaty contains, with regard to intellectual and commercial ownership rights in services, will be applied to this sector.

It is worth pointing out that a heated dispute emerged during negotiations between the United States, which rejected the limit on audio and visual exports that make up three-fourths of the circulation program in the world and are worth nearly $300 billion annually, and France, which led the European side in defending the other point of view. That point of view considers audio and visual production, i.e., television and cinema, as cultural products that ought to be excluded from the principle of free trade, in view of its clear reflections of the cultural persona of nations.

Nevertheless, the issue was transformed from the cultural field to the economic arena. This was made very apparent by the actions of the international production groups, since we note that Japanese or European capital—for the most part—is behind American businesses. For example, Sony and Matshusahita companies have purchased controlling interests in Columbia and Universal.

In this context, we can discuss the rules concerning the movie industry under the GATT treaty. This is led by author's rights since, in Article 11, the treaty stipulates recognition of author's rights in commercial leasing to the public or in denying leasing, either leasing of the original of the work or copies thereof. This obligation is valid for cinematic works.

The treaty defined the protection period as 50 years from the beginning of the final year of licensed publication. Applying this provision in Arab countries will result in the need to make certain changes in local laws with regard to this protection period as established in legislation, as is the case in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, whose protection period is 25 years.

The Egyptian film will enjoy a great deal of protection as a result of the treaty, which ensures profits of millions of dollars annually that have been lost for Egyptian production in view of the absence of protection, especially since the film market is extremely extensive. The range could be increased whenever internal conditions improve, because more than half of Egyptian film imports come from foreign marketing.

Certainly, obtaining these funds will help to raise the level of cinematic production and increase its distribution area in the region, as well as other markets. This will lead to increasing the spread of Egyptian culture abroad. However, achieving this will require the direction of strong, qualified national organizations, capable of investigating violations and following up on them, in accordance with mechanisms stipulated in the treaty.

We must point out here that the ITO has a special committee, charged with resolving disputes—that may arise among the parties—within a stipulated time period. This is consistent with the organization's comprehensive supervision over the execution of its laws. This was accomplished by the 1947 GATT. It exercises the strongest powers in resolving disputed issues, especially after agreeing to the principle of "negative consensus" in dealings among nations. This means that the ruling issued by the Settlements Committee with regard to the dispute will be carried out unless all sides agree to reject it. Moreover, a process of mutual punishment will be permitted. All of these harsh measures are to ensure that the damaged party can obtain its stipulated rights.

On the other hand, the agreement will provide a reduction of customs fees imposed upon the requirements of movie production, in terms of film, services, equipment, and spare parts. This will result in a need to lower production costs and will affect the production process as a whole, which is groaning under current high costs.

A third positive factor lies in the possibility of obtaining a "subsidy." While the treaty does not permit—in its general concept—the existence of subsidies as a policy of member nations, it does permit certain forms of subsidies if the commodity does not represent more than 3.25 percent of the volume of international trade. This applies to the Egyptian movie industry at the present time.

As opposed to that, the treaty will permit full action to market mechanisms, along with what that means in terms of putting a limit on the complete freedom of foreign films to enter the Egyptian market [sentence as published]. This could have an impact on Egyptian films because of the difference in levels of quality and other matters of techniques that help to promote the foreign film, especially in light of the difference in costs between Egyptian film production and the distribution of foreign films, since the latter achieves higher profits in comparison to the former. Consequently, this leads to a foreign monopoly over the market, with the local films being driven out.

A second danger relates to the well-known economic law that states: "Bad money drives good money out of the market." According to this statement, there is a fear that opening the market to complete freedom of action in Egyptian society will lead to domination of specific films of limited culture. This contributes to weakening the national cultural level.

However, this process has a positive aspect whenever its utilization is done well, since it can lead to raising the level of Egyptian films artistically and culturally, as a result of competition with foreign films. However, that requires a better and more precise organization of the market.

With the lack of disdain or alarm concerning the consequences stemming from the GATT treaty as pertains to the Egyptian movie industry, the matter is dependent—first and last—on the extent of the various governments' capability to create the necessary national organizations and establish the legal mechanisms so that the country will be able to deal positively with the consequences stemming from GATT. This can only be achieved under the aegis of a comprehensive look at Egyptian interests and a precise setting of its priorities, so that Egypt will be capable of standing up to the strong competition coming on the winds of international trade.

Sudan

Catholic Bishop Interviewed on War, Peace Chances

AB0106190295 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 1 Jun 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Both southern Sudanese rebel factions have now joined the Khartoum government in announcing a two-month extension of the existing cease-fire, but will it really bring peace any closer? The civil war began some 12 years ago and has taken on increasingly religious overtones, with rebels from the mainly Christian and animist south fighting what they believe are attempts by the government in Khartoum to islamize the entire country. But the rebels themselves are divided with a breakaway faction from John Garang's original SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] group engaged in bloody internecine fighting. Both government and rebels have been accused of human rights abuses. Government forces currently occupy large areas of the south, including the town of Torit. Robin White asked (Paride Taban), Catholic bishop of Torit, if he was able to gain access to the town.

[Begin recording] [(Taban)] Well, Torit is covering 79,000 square km. The town is only 3 square km, so the people are all over the 79,000 square km, where I can reach more than three-quarters of them.

[White] But can you get to the town?

[(Taban)] Well, if I mean.... [pauses] I am not a criminal. I could go to the town, but if I am interested in serving the people it is better not to go to the town.

[White] I get the impression that the Sudanese Government regards you as an opponent. Would that be right?

[(Taban)] So far, it has not said anything which I have heard. It keeps it in its heart, I don't know.

[White] But are you an opponent of the Sudanese Government?

[(Taban)] No, I am not an opponent. Just, we are.... [pauses] As religious people, we love everybody.

[White] But you are very much associated with rebel groups, ain't you?

[(Taban)] I am associated with the people, not with the rebels.

[White] But you have been an outspoken critic of the Sudanese Government and its tactics in the south.

[(Taban)] I am telling the truth.

[White] What is the truth?

[(Taban)] That human rights violations [are] being committed by Sudan Government against its own people, especially like imposing of the Islamic fundamentalism law.

[White] Are any attempts being made to islamize areas where you are?

[(Taban)] Well, ah.... [pauses] Only in government areas.

[White] So in Torit they would be trying to do that?

[(Taban)] I heard that from one of my catechists who came from there. In order to know that somebody is a Christian, even they shave the hair with a cross so that he can be identified and even be deprived of any relief.

[White] What about all the problems that have been going on within the southerners themselves, with the various factions fighting each other? What have you been doing yourself, if anything, to try and heal those factions?

[(Taban)] We tried to reconcile all the factions so that they could speak with one voice to the Sudan Government in order to reach a peaceful solution of this war, because if they stand as one body then they can be listened to by the Sudan Government but we didn't fail in our initiative. When we found it was difficult, we went to make peace at the grassroots, to the people, that the people should create peace in their own villages and among them, and we succeeded.

[White] That is happening, you are saying?

[(Taban)] It is happening, and we are thankful also it has affected the factions. Now the factions have come together. On the ground, the soldiers, all of the factions are just living together at present. They don't fight among themselves.

[White] So the problem is only at the top?

[(Taban)] Well, it is like.... [pauses] The south is like a dragon with so many heads.... [laughs]: one body, many heads.

[White] Do you speak to the leaders yourself?

[(Taban)] Well, we speak, and I think they will be made to come together through the people, because they are of the people and for the people, and they should.... [pauses] The people will force them to come together.

[White] Can you see Garang or Riak Machar yourself whenever you want?

[(Taban)] I can talk to them any moment, because they are my.... [pauses] As a church leader, they are my children.

[White] Do you blame one more than the other for the (?rift that has been)....

[(Taban, interrupting)] I don't blame them because a father always tell to children: Be good.

[White] In your diocese, who do people blame more for their suffering? Do they blame the Sudanese Government for their suffering or do they blame the faction leaders?

[(Taban)] They blame both.

[White] Equally?

[(Taban)] Equally, because they would like them to sit and solve the problem of war.

[White] I (?have heard) that in the end, in order to solve Sudan's problem, that you have got to talk — you know, bishops like yourself have got to talk — to religious leaders in the north, from a different faith. You have to talk to each other.

[(Taban)] The religious leaders and the Christian leaders in the north and in the south have no problem. It is the government which uses religion as a vehicle to strengthen its power. So it is an ideology of the Sudan Government, not of the religious leaders in the Sudan.

[White] So you could do a deal with religious, Islamic religious leaders?

[(Taban)] We have no problem.

[White] But, surely, you have a problem with (?them) trying to islamize the south.

[(Taban)] It is the government. The Islamic leaders are not.... [pauses] It is the government which imposed Islam in schools, in all areas of civil offices. So it is in school which the government responsibility and then it is in civil services, which are government. [sentence as heard] So if somebody [is] deprived of any job because he is a Christian, it is not the religious leaders. It is the government. If the schools are imposed, the language, Arabic language is imposed, it is the government. [sentence as heard] And, another thing: The government should realize that 60 percent of the Sudan are Africans; only maybe 40 percent are Afro-Arabs.

[White] But then, in fact, don't you have what is happening in Sudan as two aggressive religions meeting each other?

[(Taban)] Ah well, the Christians have never been a very aggressive religion in the Sudan. We never converted any Islam and we will not like any Muslim to become a Christian unless he gets the grace from God. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Ummah Aide Claims Detainees Offered 'Settlement'

MM0806145995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im in London and Kamal Hamid in Khartoum: "Sudanese Ummah Party: Government Offers Settlement to al-Ansar Detainees"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A prominent official of the Sudanese opposition Ummmah Party yesterday revealed that the interrogators of the nine party leaders currently detained in Khartoum "proposed a settlement in the context of a political agreement" between the Ummah Party and the government, under which they would be released.

Mubarak al-Mahdi, the party's official in charge of external activity, has told AL-HAYAH that the interrogation of the detained leaders "is not about a specific charge. It is taking the form of a dialogue in which the interrogators are offering a settlement in the context of a political agreement." He stressed that the interrogation "is not geared toward verification of any specific charge or action by the detainees, but is taking the form of a dialogue in which the authorities are suggesting agreement."

He said that any such offers "are rejected because the main condition is a return to freedom and democracy." He added that "it is unreasonable to detain someone and then tell him: I wish to have a dialogue with you. Any dialogue in such circumstances would be a dialogue under duress and threats."

He also said: "We believe that the regime is trying to cling to life. That is why we will not give it that opportunity. They should hand over power to the people and prevent bloodshed." He expressed the view that the atmosphere was not suitable for any kind of understanding, especially in the absence of freedom. AL-HAYAH has been unable to obtain any further information on the matter or to get confirmation from the authorities. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

UN Delegation Visits To Facilitate Referendum

Delegation Arrives

LD0706232895 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A UN Security Council delegation consisting of UN delegates from the United States, France, Oman, Honduras, Argentina, and Botswana arrived this evening in Layoune. [passage omitted]

At the VIP lounge of Hassan I airport, the head of the UN Security Council delegation made a statement to national and international correspondents in which he said with more efforts it would be possible to hold the referendum in the expected date. He spoke about the slow process of identification and said that if this process was conducted faster then it would be possible to hold the referendum within the next seven months. [passage omitted]

Adopts Agreement With Polisario

BR0806141095 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 8 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Ferran Sales: "Agreement Between Polisario and United Nations To Facilitate Referendum on Sahara"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tinduf — Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] committed itself yesterday to speeding up the process leading to a referendum on the Western Sahara. The agreement was adopted by the officials of the Saharan Movement during a series of meetings they held with members of a UN Security Council mission, which for four days has been visiting the region in an attempt to call the referendum on self-determination for next January.

"This is a summary agreement. The members of the UN mission asked us to collaborate with them in accelerating the process of identifying voters. In exchange we are putting forward the need to have these people identified in a credible manner. Thus we reached the conclusion that the process has to be sped up and made credible too," Basir Mustafa Sayed [name as published], Polisario's number two man and the person responsible for the foreign affairs portfolio, said yesterday at a news conference held at the Saharan refugee camps in Tinduf, south of the Algerian Sahara.

The agreement between the United Nations and Polisario is only one part of the complex diplomatic operation that began successfully three days ago in Rabat, where the same Security Council delegation met with Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali and Interior Minister Driss Basri. There too an agreement was signed to speed the process up.

"This three-tiered agreement will enable us to carry on the process of identifying the Saharans and gaining the approval of the UN Assembly for the budget which is essential if we are to continue carrying out our mission until the referendum is held in early 1996. This is our last chance," Erik Jensen said firmly yesterday. Jensen is UN undersecretary general, deputy special representative for the Western Sahara, and chairman of the Identification Committee.

According to all these official statements, everything has already been settled. In the next few days the mechanism for identifying the voters, which was initiated almost a year ago in eight centers spread out across the Sahara, could reach a dizzying speed, exceeding the mark of 35,000 registered Saharans — the fruit of four months' work. This would also put an end to the policy of obstruction waged by all sides in recent months.

Yesterday at the camps in Tinduf, while the women, dressed in traditional dresses, met the officials from the UN mission and journalists with cries of happiness — known as "yuyus" — and flags, low and mid-level officials in Polisario talked quietly in less optimistic and more critical terms — showing their disagreement with the way in which the process has developed so far. These are the voices of the dissidents who are unambiguously calling for a return to arms.

"Things were much clearer before. The people are tired of waiting and coping with the operations plotted by Morocco. We are fed up. We are all fed up. Not only are we asking for a return to arms, but the young Saharans in particular are asking for it. They are the most radical," said a member of Polisario's protocol department out loud.

All of these voices were heard together yesterday at the refugee camps for the Saharans beneath a scorching sun and the indifferent gaze of the international community. These are clear symptoms of a bad omen that portends another UN failure. Or perhaps not.

Polisario Leader Comments on Visit

LD0806161595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit of the UN delegation to the Saharan refugee camps has ended. The UN mission has left for the fourth leg of its tour, Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania. Our special correspondent in the Saharan territories, Wahid Selmel.

[Selmel] The visit of the Security Council commission to the Western Sahara ended yesterday [7 June]. It will go to Nouakchott today, the capital of Mauritania.

According to the two sides, the talks were fruitful. The peace process was given a new momentum and the credibility of the action of the United Nations was boosted, after being the butt of criticism lately. These were the two key points during the talks. Indeed, how can a new momentum and credibility be guaranteed? They are contingent on prerequisites. Moustapha Bechir Elseyyid, the deputy leader of Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el- Hamra and Rio de Oro] and the coordinator of the Polisario Front with Minurso [UN Mission for the Organization of a Referendum in the Western Sahara], comments:

[Begin Elseyyid recording] Since the UN mission is keen to speed things up, we have said that we [words indistinct] how both that acceleration and [their] credibility can be combined. It is very simple: it means putting some space between the United Stations [and] the [word indistinct] of that effort of waste of time, money, and means of every possible kind to review a contingent of foreigners — armies of foreigners — that Morocco has [word indistinct] allowed to march before the militia. [as heard] [end recording]

[Selmel] The chairman of the [UN] Security Council mission insisted on the need to give a new boost to the peace process in the Western Sahara. There is also a financial constraints side to that mission. Joseph Dagouaela comments:

[Begin Dagouaela recording, in English, with superimposed French translation] The United Nations is running out of money because the United Nations is running 17 peacekeeping operations throughout the world. These operations cost $3 billion. The peace mandate in the Western Sahara is also very costly. A decrease in the financial resources of the United Nations, coupled with a slowing down of the peace process in Western Sahara, can only make matters worse. We must find solutions. [end recording]

Delegation Head: Visit 'Successful'

LD0806140795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council's mission [on Western Sahara] is to arrive in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott at midday today on the last leg of its tour of the region. This mission aims at speeding up the plan for the organization of the referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara.

The UN mission is to hold talks with the Mauritanian authorities before returning to New York, where it is expected to submit a report to the UN Security Council. The head of the UN mission, a diplomat from Botswana [not further identified], described the UN delegation's visit as successful when he answered a question from our colleague Noureddine Moussadek.

[Begin UN mission head recording, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] Our mission has been a success in the sense that it has enabled us to meet all the parties. I noticed that all the parties reiterated the will to work for the implementation of the peace plan, and there is nothing more important than that as long as the matter is about implementing the plan.

The parties must dedicate themselves to the implementation of the referendum and the plan and they should do so with greater speed than in the past. So, I am optimistic and all I hope is that the parties share my optimism and the plan will be carried out by January 1996, as a last deadline, and its results will bring satisfaction to both parties, because they must be satisfactory to both parties. [end recording]

President Expresses 'Optimism'

LD0906103495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Republic, has expressed his optimism with regard to holding a referendum in Western Sahara.

At a news conference last night, the Saharan president attributed his optimism to the pledge he received from the UN Security Council's delegation to the effect that a free, just, and impartial referendum will be held in Western Sahara.

The Saharan president reiterated the Polisario Front's total commitment to cooperate with the UN.

Oman

Border Demarcation With Yemen Complete; Ceremony Held

JN0306173495 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In implementation of the border agreement signed between the Sultanate of Oman and the fraternal Republic of Yemen in October 1992, a ceremony was held this morning to mark the completion of the demarcation of international borders between the two fraternal states under the auspices of His Excellency Musallam Bin-'Ali al-Busa'idi, minister of state and Dhofar governor; and Hasan Maqbul al-Ahdal, al-Mahrah governor.

The minister of state and Dhofar governor delivered a speech on the occasion, saying: We derive great pride and jubilation from the fact that the ties of brotherhood between our two fraternal states are taking root and proceeding in a framework of understanding, mutual respect, and an unmistakable desire to build a relationship that promotes the common interests of the Omani and Yemeni peoples. The signing of the border demarcation agreement by the two countries in October 1992 was a sound and courageous move. The ceremony held today lends credence to the provisions enshrined in this agreement, since this ceremony marks the completion of the demarcation of international borders between the two fraternal countries.

The minister of state and Dhofar governor added: The demarcation of international borders between the two countries would not have become a reality had it not been for the clear vision of the leaders of the two countries. This accomplishment does not need to be commended, for it speaks for itself. Omani and Yemeni citizens are jubilant about this agreement. Their jubilation is heartfelt; it reflects the beliefs of Omanis and Yemenis that the agreement on the demarcation and delineation of borders between the two countries has resolved many difficulties that could have obstructed normal communication and cooperation between brothers.

The minister of state went on to say: The on-site border demarcation extended along the entire border between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen on the basis of very good specifications. High-tech land survey and air reconnoitering equipment were used to achieve this objective. The services of a leading international firm specialized in this area were used to carry out this project under the supervision of a joint Omani-Yemeni technical team.

The minister of state said: The ceremony we are holding today sets a bright example for good neighborly relations. Disputes that could adversely affect the ties of cooperation between neighboring states can thus be defused. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih were instrumental in realizing this accomplishment. The Omani leadership has pursued peaceful coexistence with world states, particularly neighboring states. His majesty the sultan has always underscored this point.

The Omani minister of state added: His majesty the sultan, may god protect him, says: We are always eager to play our role in full on the international scene on the basis of our consistent, positive, and clear policy, which is firmly grounded in peaceful coexistence among all peoples, good neighborliness among neighboring states, noninterference in the domestic affairs of others, and mutual respect for the national sovereignty of others.

For his part, al-Mahrah Governor Hasan Maqbul al-Ahdal delivered a speech, saying: The completion of the demarcation of borders between the Sultanate and the Republic of Yemen is a highly significant historic event. This event is the outcome of enormous efforts made by many officials and joint committees under the auspices of the political leaders of the Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman.

The al-Mahrah governor added: These efforts were marked by a fraternal spirit, compassion, and a common sense of responsibility. The whole endeavor was meant to promote the interests of both countries. All well-intentioned and peace-loving forces in the Arab homeland and elsewhere have blessed the border agreement signed between the two countries. It is our hope that we have set an example to be emulated in resolving disputes among states through peaceful means. The pursuit of an approach based on good neighborliness to resolve disputes among states helps promote their peoples' interests, as well as their security and stability.

The Yemeni official went on to say: This historic event will promote the security of the region, and this will favorably reflect on world security and stability. Moreover, this event shows that with good faith, talks to defuse problems are bound to produce concrete and positive results. This constructive event will open up horizons for fruitful cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Afterward came the festivities marking the completion of the demarcation of international borders between the Sultanate and the Republic of Yemen. The Omani flag was hoisted on the Omani castle on the eastern side of Wadi Habarut, while the Yemeni flag was hoisted on the Yemeni castle located on the western heights of Wadi Habarut. Then, the Omani minister of state and the al-Mahrah governor exchanged souvenirs on the occasion.

It is to be recalled that the borderline between the two countries extends along 308 km from Darbat 'Ali to (Ramlat Shuhayt).

Omani and Yemeni citizens expressed their jubilation on the occasion by reciting poems and singing to epitomize the sincere bilateral ties of brotherhood and good neighborliness.

The ceremony was attended by several provincial governors, advisers, a large crowd of military and civic officials, as well as notables and tribal leaders of the Dhofar and al-Mahrah Governorates.

Qatar

Iraqi Reinstatement to Olympic Council Sought

95P50126 Qatar AL-RAYAH in Arabic 24 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Qatar submitted an official request to the Asian Olympic Council calling for the return of Iraq to the council because the reasons for its membership suspension ceased to exist.

The submission came in a formal note presented by His Excellency Shaykh Mohammad Bin Fahd Al Thani, president of the National Qatari Olympic Committee at the meeting of the general assembly of the Asian Olympic Council convening now in the South Korean capital.

In his speech at the meeting, His Excellency Shaykh Mohammad Bin Fahd indicated that the decision, which was made during the general assembly meeting in Beijing in 1990, suspended Iraq's membership in the council until normal Olympic activity returned to Kuwait. He emphasized that the time had come for Iraq to practice its sports' rights in the council as other countries do.

The Qatari request was received with approval from the assembly, and it was passed on to the executive office of the council to be discussed and placed on the next meeting's agenda. This indicates the council's acceptance of the request. [passage omitted]

[Begin box] In his meeting with the Iraqi Olympic team, Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, emphasized that Iraq will resume its natural position in the Asian Olympics Council. The Iraqi team is in Seoul lobbying for Iraq's return to the council and explaining its country's point of view and the impact of the suspension on Iraqi sports. [passage omitted] [end box]

*Minister: No Agreement With Israel on Gas

95P50118A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 May 95 p 11

["Text" of interview with Hamad Bin-Jasim Muhammad Al Thani, president of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and chairman of the consortium of Arab chambers of commerce and industry, by Musa Mahdi in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mahdi] Where do you stand with regards to ending the Israeli boycott?

[Al Thani] We in the consortium of the Arab chambers have a clear position on the boycott. A complete and comprehensive peace is needed before we end the boycott. Also, Israel should abide by all international resolutions and find a final solution to the Jerusalem question. I believe it is difficult to have full commercial ties with Israel before there is real peace.

If we look at Egypt, which signed the Camp David accord with Israel, its commercial exchange with Israel is still very small. I think there is a psychological factor.

However, if there is comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab countries, especially Syria and Lebanon, and if Israel complies with the agreement it signed with the Palestinians, especially on the Jerusalem problem, the commercial normalization between Israel and the Arabs will undoubtedly come.

[Mahdi] There is optimism that peace will lead to a tremendous increase in foreign investments in the Middle East. How do you evaluate this theory one and a half years after the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement?

[Al Thani] Foreign aid certainly has come from the European Community and the United States for the occupied land, especially to finance basic infrastructure projects; however, I think foreign investments in the region are not related to commercial normalization between Israel and the Arab countries. Foreign companies will invest when they think the returns on their investments are worthwhile. [passage omitted]

[Mahdi] Do you have any advice for attracting foreign investments?

[Al Thani] Arab countries should should make it easier for foreign investors, such as tax breaks and the freedom for investors to re-export their profits. They can also offer them free land and trained labor, give what is called in the West a "tax holiday" for 10 years, and lift currency limitations. These are important steps to liberate the economies and attract Arab and foreign investments. Morocco and Egypt have taken serious steps toward the liberation of their economies, especially by floating their currencies.

Also, Arab countries should shorten considerably the time and layers of bureacracy it takes to approve an investment project.

[Mahdi] How much do you think privatization will help in returning Arab capital from abroad?

[Al Thani] Privatization in the Gulf countries is still limited to the citizens of those countries, especially in industries that are protected by special funds; however, there are steps to lift the limitations on investments among the Gulf countries in some areas. Some countries have lifted investment limitations in real estate and stocks. Without a doubt, privatization will help return the private Gulf investments abroad. Egypt has been able through privatization to attract such investments. Morocco is also a successful experiment in privatization that was able to attract foreign investments.

[Mahdi] Is there a fear that privatization will affect limited-income individuals because of a rise in the prices of basic commodities?

[Al Thani] In all countries, service industries such as electricity and telephones are monitored by the government. For example, in Britain, it is not left to the electric company to decide its fee schedule. However, there are ceilings and limitations. Still, privatization has helped these service companies by improving their employees' skills and thus increased their profit margins. Privatization in the Gulf will take these factors into consideration.

[Mahdi] Do you think privatization should include gas and oil?

[Al Thani] I believe in the necessity of including the private sector in industries related to gas and oil such as refining, distribution, and petrochemical industries. There are countries such as Saudi Arabia, which gave part of SABIC (Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation) to the private sector and continues to increase the private sector's share in the petrochemical, iron, and fertilizer industries. However, oil and gas production should be carried out by national companies owned by the country or in association with international companies that obtain concession rights for a limited time period.

[Mahdi] What about privatizing the production of gas and oil?

[Al Thani] It is not time yet to talk about this subject. Some countries can use international expertise in production at some fields, but, oil and gas production is not a privatization priority. It is preferable to start privatization with small industries and then move to medium and heavy ones.

[Mahdi] Are you content with privatization steps taken so far in Qatar?

[Al Thani] All recent large companies in Qatar are financed by the private sector. A good example is the Qatar company for marine transport that was recently established. Also, banking, insurance, and services including air and shipping have been in the private sector.

[Mahdi] What steps have been taken to utilize gas in Qatar?

[Al Thani] The field in Bahr al-Shamal was discovered in 1974. The first development work in the field started in 1987. The first stage was only to cover local energy needs. The second stage was the starting of the Qatar gas company. The company is a consortium of the Qatari Government, French Total, U.S. Mobil, and Japanese Mitsui and Maroubini. The purpose is to produce 4-6 million tons of the LNG [liquified natural gas] and export it to the Japanese electrical company "Shobo." The second project is at Ras Laffan for gas. This project is administered by Qatar general establishment for oil and Mobil. The first contract was signed three weeks ago with "Korea Gas" to buy 2.3 million tons of LNG. Negotiations are still going on for new contracts to export LNG from Ras Laffan to India, Pakistan, Taiwan, China, and Turkey. It is expected that production by the Qatar gas company will start the beginning of January 1997.

[Mahdi] How is the gas marketed?

[Al Thani] Gas exploration and marketing are very expensive projects. We do not start developing a field, building factories, or buying special ships for transfer of liquid gas until long-term contracts are signed to buy the gas. So the Qatar gas company signed a contract with Shobo for 25 years, during which the Japanese company is obligated to buy an alloted amount. Gas is not sold like oil on the open market, and there should be a firm contract before execution.

[Mahdi] Some reports talked about a pipeline project to transport Qatari gas to Israel; what is the truth about this project?

[Al Thani] Some papers wrote reports about this project, but there is no agrement between Qatar and Israel about this pipeline. No memorandum of understanding has been signed on the subject either. There have been talks. Undoubtedly, Israel needs gas and oil, otherwise it would not have signed a contract with Egypt.

[Mahdi] What is the status of the stock market in Qatar?

[Al Thani] Establishing a stock market in Qatar is one of the important projects to regulate the trade of stocks. Now all stocks are dealt with through brokers in the market or real-estate offices. A stock market will certainly help in privatization.

[Mahdi] Have any real steps been taken?

[Al Thani] there have been practical steps in Qatar to establish a stock market and a decision was issued. We only need now to execute the decision.[passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Editorial Stresses Importance of Close Yemeni Ties

JN0806124695 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 7

[Editorial: "The Kingdom, Yemen, and the Inevitability of Improved Ties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All nations of the world seek to make their regional ties friendlier and more peaceful. All leaders and heads of state aspire to establish good-neighbor relations with neighboring countries, particularly at this point in human history. This is because good-neighbor ties create a better and more appropriate climate that nations can use to strengthen national unity, promote development and economic endeavors, and foster domestic welfare. By contrast, when there is tension between neighboring states, immense revenues and resources are lost because they are spent on unproductive activities that only foment hostility toward others.

It is extremely important that Saudi-Yemeni ties be good, fruitful, and beneficial to the two fraternal peoples. There are various reasons for this. First, the two countries are located in a sensitive area rich in resources that are extremely important to the international community. Second, the world is currently experiencing a stage of reformulating international relations and building new strategies. Third, with the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the recent drastic political upheavals, professional international politicians have almost become jobless. Nowadays, they seek to preoccupy themselves with minor conflicts to prove their professionalism and forge heroic feats before their public, even if this is at the expense of other peoples.

To further explain this by way of example, we only have to relate the following development, which was clear to politicians in the two fraternal countries. When Saudi-Yemeni ties deteriorated, many parties, chief among which were the Baghdad and Tehran regimes, applied all possible pressures and used temptation to perpetuate the estrangement between the Kingdom and Yemen. When signs of understanding between the two countries surfaced, these parties cast doubts on these signs and worked to scuttle the points of agreement between the two countries. Likewise, they tried to belittle the great success achieved by the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries. Those promoting divisiveness seek to perpetuate estrangement between the two countries so they may use it to their advantage to the detriment of the historical good-neighbor ties between the two countries. These parties are well aware that understanding between any two neighbors, be they individuals or states, is bound to promote the interests of the two neighbors and create a climate of peace and trust; and they do not wish for Yemen or the Kingdom to reap the fruits of peace.

Fourth, an additional factor that renders Saudi-Yemeni understanding an inevitable necessity is the fact that border issues are irksome and serious. They have caused countless tragedies, wars, and hostility between many nations. Hence, the resolution of the Saudi-Yemeni border dispute will defuse a problem that those fomenting sedition have always sought to ignite and fuel.

It is hoped that the Saudi and Yemeni leaders will be able to reach a solution satisfactory to both sides, particularly since the Kingdom has never ever, throughout the history of its reputed and matchless diplomacy, sought to undermine or usurp others' rights. It has always sought solutions that guarantee the rights of all sides. This is because its leaders do not like temporary solutions, nor do they cherish the pursuit of convoluted policies to make gains. The leaders of the Kingdom have patiently and painstakingly sought to create propitious climates for its relations with Arab and foreign countries. Saudi diplomacy is marked by clarity as well as respect for others and their rights.

U.S. Accused of Pressuring Saudis on Islamists

95AE0024A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 1 May 95 pp 4-5

[Unattributed article: "U.S.-Saudi Disagreement Becomes Public for First Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Where are U.S.-Saudi relations heading? What is bringing the two countries' disagreements into the open for the first time in the history of these longstanding relations? Observers in Washington and in Riyadh and other Arab capitals say that something is happening on both sides and that the honeymoon that characterized King Fahd bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz's relations with his American allies from the midseventies until the second Gulf war is over. As evidence, they cite much that has surfaced and more that is ambiguous and unknown hidden underneath, so that the relationship, always described as special and different, is passing through a tunnel. They add that the relationship is no longer so untroubled as it used to be, nor is it one of the secrets of the marriage between lovers whose unsanctified liaison was long a unique example of licit and illicit relations between countries: oil lovers in Washington and money lovers in Riyadh.

Washington: Special Report

Observers have noted that the Gulf war and occupation of Kuwait were the turning point in the fascinating known and unknown American-Saudi relationship.

After the Gulf war, American demands on the Saudi regime increased to more than the regime could fulfill financially and politically. Some American circles think that the war liberated Saudi Arabia as much as Kuwait; for, although Iraq did not directly target Saudi Arabia, had Kuwait been left to Iraq, Iraq would have eaten Kuwait for breakfast and Saudi Arabia for lunch. These circles therefore think that America, having given Saudi Arabia much, is entitled to demand much from her. If Saudi Arabia continues to exist, it is because of America's strength and Gulf adventure, America having provided Saudi Arabia with the means of protection.

Saudi circles and powerful elements in the royal family close to the king reply that the entire Kuwait war was fabricated: a trap into which they drew Iraq so that they could lay hands on the oil; which they did. What more then do the people in Washington want?

The Americans reply that what Saudi Arabia has paid thus far is not enough—mere appetizers—in the new order whose borders, relationships, and future Washington is drafting. There is the required Saudi role of providing Islamic cover in the region and Islamic world. There is the role of continued active participation in the peace and normalization policy. The Americans add that Saudi policy on these subjects is quite vacillating and contributes little.

Saudis: We Are Not a Colony

The Americans list their demands. There is security cooperation, which presupposes better and broader coordination between the allies. They cite Saudi hesitation to cooperate in the specific case of arresting 'Imad (Mughniyah), who, according to intelligence information, was aboard a Sudan-to-Beirut flight scheduled to land at Jiddah for fueling. Saudi authorities declined to provide the necessary easements to enable FBI agents to arrest him. The Americans add that this Saudi position is close to the policy of "supporting terrorism" with which America has charged Middle Eastern countries that it puts on a special list. In denouncing and condemning the Saudi position, some American agencies go so far as to demand that Saudi Arabia be put on the list of countries that support terrorism, or at least be threatened with this. The Saudis respond: "Although we are allies, we are not a colony. If American security had arrested a wanted person of any sort coming from Sudan and heading for another Arab country while in transit in Saudi Arabia, the affair would have constituted a political scandal for the Saudi regime. A dangerous period of confrontation with the fundamentalists would have begun. Neither the regime nor any prince would have been safe afterward." Then, say the Saudis, "we are not the American regime's police. If America was certain of its information, why didn't its many aircraft in the region intercept the Sudanese plane and force it to land in Kuwait, for example, so that they could arrest the person they believe responsible for the marine headquarters bombing and other operations?" The Saudis add: "Does it make sense to consider Imad (Mughniyah) along with 18 other wanted persons the real danger to peace and interests? What peace is it that 18 persons can threaten? What interests can so paltry and limited a number of extremists threaten?" A Saudi official added: "We doubt for many reasons that 'Imad (Mughniyah) really was a passenger on the plane. First of all, he could not have been going to Beirut knowing the security penetration at the airport and the dangers of traveling there. Second, he could not have been crossing Saudi air space, knowing the probable risk of his being stopped or kidnapped by the Americans. Third, he was a permanent resident of Iran, not moving from there or going to another country." The official added that (Mughniyah) was not in Khartoum and did not attend the Arab Islamic People's Conference. Finally, the Saudis dispute the truth of what American circles have hinted: that an aide of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi gave them the report and informed them about the details of (Mughniyah)'s trip. They say: "If the Americans really received such information, it means that Khartoum, knowing all along that Saudi Arabia would never allow the FBI to board the airplane and arrest one of its passengers on Saudi territory, cleverly succeeded in sowing seeds of discord between America and Saudi Arabia by fabricating the story about (Mughniyah), who was never aboard the airplane."

America Demands Islamists' Dossiers

The Americans in return reject the Saudi logic. Adducing the preceding story as proof, they insist that Saudi authorities did not cooperate in confronting and pursuing terrorism. The Americans—or American agencies—go on to detail what they think is a different and uncooperative Saudi position. They say that one extremely important subject is supplying America with sufficient information about Islamic organizations that Saudi Arabia had funded for many years. The Americans are asking for all the names and addresses in the Saudi files on these organizations. They are also asking that this aid be stopped or passed through double channels. The Americans also insist that the special aid that Hamas receives from Saudi Arabia with the regime's knowledge and silent assent be stopped. Administration people in Washington ask what difference there is between Sudan, which refuses to cooperate or give information about Islamic movements, and Saudi Arabia, which refuses to do so. Each, they say, is a position supporting or covering up terrorism.

Photographing, Fingerprinting Pilgrims

Another subject on the Americans' list of complaints and demands is the Libyan airplane carrying pilgrims that penetrated the blockade. Saudi Arabia received it, allowed it to land and take off, and supplied it with fuel. Angered by the affair, Madeline Albright, the American ambassador to the United Nations, voiced her anger in harsh words.

There is the subject of the pilgrimage. Saudi Arabia has refused to supply Washington with additional information, photographs, and fingerprints of arriving pilgrims, especially those coming from Sudan, Lebanon, Iran, Libya, Palestine, and other countries. American authorities had asked for Saudi Arabia's cooperation on the subject—as they put it, in order to contain terrorism, organize data on it, and determine its elements. Saudi Arabia, they say, refused and continues to refuse. Influential Saudis from the royal family think that America is trying to use Saudi Arabia to create a continuous Islamic information bank, but that the Saudi position did not respond as favorably to the project as Washington had supposed.

Washington adds that the Saudi position is impossible to understand. The Saudis reply that it is natural and sound. Washington asks how this was any more than what had already begun, such bilateral cooperation having existed for long periods. The Saudis reply: "The Gulf war revealed everything: the goal was oil; its peoples and regimes had no value. It is time for each side in this unequal relation to define its position and interests. Although we are not and cannot be against America, we are not employees of their agencies: they shall not use us forever, playing with us and continually blackmailing us in the name of security."

Has Saudi Arabia Broken Its Promises?

The American storm raises another issue in the Saudi coffee cup. The Americans say that Saudi Arabia has broken its promises. Motivated by fear, Saudi Arabia promised before the Gulf war to support the peace project with all its power and to proceed with a normalization policy as soon as Kuwait was liberated and the peace process begun. Riyadh, however, soon reneged on its promise and today is avoiding carrying out what it agreed to. It has done no more to support peace and normalization than take a few stands and exert Arab pressure, not as much as the American administration had hoped and expected. The Saudis are also vacillating with their refusal to support the establishment and funding of a Middle East development bank, a policy on which American and Israeli policy are counting to merge the region into an economic unit linked to the American production cycle.

The Saudis reply that such talk is not accurate. Riyadh made its position on peace and normalization contingent on achieving peace on all fronts. Although peace has been achieved partially on two fronts, the PLO and Jordan, the two other fronts of Syria and Lebanon remain, on which no real progress has been made. The Saudis add: "If Washington has heard other language from some individual Saudis whose responsibility does not extend to making political decisions, how is Riyadh to blame and what responsibility does it bear?"

Rejecting the Saudi defense, influential elements in President Clinton's administration think that Saudi Arabia is not carrying out its required role and that its policy is subject to narrow domestic considerations.

Observers think that this summer cloud in relations between Washington and Riyadh will disperse. Each side needs the other: Washington cannot do without Riyadh, even while it tries to rearrange the Saudi household as it plans; and Riyadh cannot do without Washington, knowing how far it has gone in identifying itself with American schemes to reshape and reorder the region, including Saudi Arabia. Although Saudi Arabia thought it could remain aloof from the process, it suddenly finds itself at the heart of the desired process of change.

Observers in Washington also think that the tug of war between Riyadh and Washington and the mutual charges of betrayal of friendship are merely signs of a bedroom quarrel a few words of which have gotten out, but that the couple will soon discover that the error of the quarrel was greater than the rightness of either side. They say that the real reason for the heated quarrel is that the American spouse began playing around in the royal bed by looking at the maid (the opposition) because it is more amorous, youthful, and perhaps cleaner, too!

One Saudi who does not hide the facts says plainly that American policy is coquettish and that the Saudi regime ought to take a more resolute stand toward it, expressing its rejection of such an illicit game by all available means. One way is to pay more attention to Arab brothers and try to build up a cohesive Arab position on a common denominator of principles. Some go as far as to demand a complete review of Arab and Islamic policies and the abandonment of the American logic with its restrictions and fences.

American Plot Against Iraq Deployed From Saudi Territory?

Has the America-Saudi Arabia story concluded, or is it still in its early stages?

Washington circles, monitoring groups, and observers are whispering yet another story.

Information has been leaked that America asked Riyadh's assistance in a new scheme to threaten Saddam Husayn's regime in Iraq and to create difficulties for him with the goal of overthrowing him.

The plot in outline involves the use of numbers of U.S.-resident Iraqi refugees and opposition members for acts of sabotage and fighting inside Iraqi territory deployed from Saudi Arabia and trained there in fighting, explosives, and guerrilla warfare. Secret camps for this purpose have indeed been established. Many such opposition members and refugees are known to have fled to Saudi Arabia in the wake of the Shiite rebellion in the south after the Gulf war; from there they went to the United States in accordance with a joint American-Saudi program.

American agencies observed that many of these refugees had become involved in burglary rings, drug trafficking, and professional crime in their areas of residence. Thus, American policy planners think that using them with Iraqi opposition and refugee elements in the 'Ar'ar and Turayf camps, organizing them, and training them will bring a twofold benefit. The scheme presumes the formation of field units and their conveyance into Iraqi cities near the Kuwait and Saudi borders in general and into the southern and al-Anbar areas in particular.

The authors of the scheme think that using the adherents of the Wahhabi sect in al-Anbar and supporting them with weapons and money will be useful and will strengthen the scheme with internal elements.

Princes Sultan, Sa'ud al-Faysal Oppose

However, this American scheme faces strong opposition from influential elements in the royal family despite heavy American pressure.

On the basis of information from Washington observers, Prince Sultan bin 'Abd- al-'Aziz and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, oppose the scheme and have voiced their opposition to it before King Fahd in a family meeting devoted to discussing the matter. Opponents of the scheme in the royal family call it two-edged, because Iraq can do the same thing and carry out wider sabotage operations on Saudi territory, operations whose political consequences and repercussions the regime would be unable to bear. They add that Iraq's experience is broader; and, despite what Iraq has suffered, its ability to use sabotage and assassination tactics remains greater than Saudi Arabia's. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia's internal circumstances and the growth of the opposition give Iraq additional potential and reserve power.

They also say that Iran would not stay away if sabotage operations began and widened in scope. It might intervene secretly in the scheme to carry out its own plot of fomenting disturbances inside Saudi Arabia and inciting division and secession among certain regions. Thoughtful Saudis fear that the real goal of the scheme may be to create appropriate conditions in the area as a whole to fragment and repartition the area and to impose conditions for separation and secession in it.

Finally, some Saudis say that such a scheme needs large allocations that will burden the kingdom's treasury, already suffering from great difficulties because of the Gulf war and the large expenditure that has consumed and is consuming resources and putting the once very wealthy kingdom into debt. So the scheme is bad in every respect, a mistake in all its aspects, and a danger in all its possible outcomes.

What Does America Want From Saudi Arabia?

The Saudis again ask what America wants. Does it want partition, change, replacement, or an explosion? Does it want oil, the revenues from it, Saudis' overseas assets, or all of these together and at once?

The Americans answer: "These are the figments of fear. All we want is a regime more responsive to the scheme to rearrange the region's cards and relations and an acceptable amount of internal change that circumstances require."

These are the dimensions of the Saudi-American open and hidden disagreement. It is a disagreement that is not expected to explode quickly. However, observers think it will hasten the change that the American administration is demanding and wishes to expedite—a change for which it has drawn up more than one scenario and alternatives inside and outside the royal family.

[Begin box]

American Admission: We Erred, Were Too Hasty

An informed American source told AL-MUHARRIR that an error of sorts and a certain overhastiness occurred in making the American-Saudi dispute public and that the dispute must be contained. He added that the error started from the Justice Department and FBI, which were too quick to publicize the affair of the airplane said to have been carrying 'Imad (Mughniyah). The State Department's official spokesman, known for his haste and inexperience, was too quick to speak publicly about the subject in a tone that seemed rather blunt. The secretary of state found himself in the midst of a crisis about to explode without justification and tried to allay it. The secretary of defense rushed to enter along the line of protest for general and personal reasons: Having concluded from hearing the State Department official's comment that something had happened between America and Saudi Arabia, he wanted to appear in the picture and not be absent from it. In this way, unexpected repercussions led to the eruption of the first public disagreement between the two allies. The State Department tried to cover it over quickly, before it could go further than the nature of relations and joint interests permitted.

Circles close to the White House have attributed other dimensions to the disagreement. They believe its purpose was to curb the Saudi role in the next American presidential election, since Saudi Arabia supports the Republicans, who interfere less in its internal affairs.

Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador in Washington, is known to be a powerful presence in American political life and to have unlimited ability to contribute materially to the election campaign and influence its results.

[end box]

U.S. Military Policy Toward Pakistan Questioned

LD0506222495 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Commentary by correspondent Husayn al-Askari]

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of Pakistani and U.S. military officials are to meet to discuss the resumption of military cooperation following the U.S. Government's suspension of arms sales to Pakistan since 1990.

Relations between states are governed by mutual interests. In politics there are no permanent friendships and no continuous enmities. Indeed there is permanent interest.

On this basis Pakistani-American relations have proceeded despite moments of tension in the Islamabad-Washington relations for which Pakistan was not to blame as much as certain forces that had influenced decision makers in Washington who were dominated by the belief that Pakistan has obtained or has been trying to obtain weapons of mass destruction, whereas Pakistan's neighbor, India, actually has nuclear weapons which New Delhi has previously tested quite openly.

Nevertheless, India has never been denounced for actually possessing weapons of mass destruction, and New Delhi never tried to hide or conceal this — a matter that causes astonishment and bewilderment.

Pakistan, however, has been blamed for posing a threat to the region and planting terror in the hearts of its neighbors even though it has not been established that it possesses a nuclear weapon.

The result was the United States suspended arms sales to Pakistan. This suspension included a number of F-16 military planes Pakistan had already paid for.

But it appears that the visit of the Pakistani prime minister to the United States and her meeting with U.S. President Clinton convinced the U.S. Administration that the U.S. stance toward Pakistan lacked facts and that some of the decision makers in Congress took stands that did not serve, but rather harmed the country's interests, because Pakistan is a major Muslim state that is important in the area among the group of Islamic states.

It seems Washington has taken this into account and is reconsidering its relations with Pakistan from the premise of mutual interests and as a country that has a place on the map of Washington's foreign policy.

CDLR Communique Assails Detention of Shaykh

MS0606090195 London CDLR Monitor in English 4 Jun 95 p 5

[Bulletin No. 37 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received by fax 6 June]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **From Tyranny to Vileness: Saudi Rulers Authorise Detention of Scholar al-'Uqlah**

In a sudden development, the Saudi tyrant authorities have arrested and detained grand scholar and jurist Shaykh Hummud Bin-'Abdallah al-Sha'bi. The blind shaykh, who is more than 75 years old was taken from his home in Buraydah on the evening of Saturday 3 June. Considered one of the leading authorities in Islamic jurispurudence in the Arabian peninsula. Shaykh al-'Uqlah taught thousands of scholars including a large number of the Senior Scholars Council, the head of the

Supreme Judicial Council, the minister of Islamic Affairs and many other high ranking government executives. He had been a professor of Islamic jurisprudence at the Al-Imam University until he was recently dismissed upon the instructions of the interior minister. Furthermore, he has been a staunch supporter of the reform movement and was a signatory to all the petitions that were submitted to the Saudi rulers. He is highly regarded by the youth in the Arabia Peninsula.

According to CDLR sources in al-Qasim, the minister of interior despatched a company of seventy individuals to the Shaykh's house on the outskirts of Buraydah city. The Shaykh was apprehended and taken to an unknown destination at around nine o'clock in the evening. A large number of soldiers remained behind in the house searching it thoroughly until 11 o'clock. The Shaykh's driver and a number of his students were also detained.

The CDLR denounces Shaykh al-Uqlah's detention and considers it a most despicable measure that not only points to the lack of any sense of honour on the part of the Saudi rulers, but also confirms that the Saudi regime has indeed proven to be illegitimate. No one imagined that the Saudi rulers would stoop to such a level of villeness and resort to arresting and detaining a grand and highly regarded 75-year old blind scholar.

The CDLR warns that the repercussions of the detention of Shaykh al-'Uqlah could be considerable by virtue of the important role played by the Shaykh in controlling the emotions and reactions of the ever increasing number of agitated youth. The CDLR holds the state responsible for the outcome of its despicable act.

London, Sunday 4 June 1995

Yemen

Salih Comments on Saudi Visit, Arab Ties

NC0906070295 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 9 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, in Sanaa, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" Program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Miliji] Mr. President, what is the importance of your visit [to Saudi Arabia] and the significance of its timing?

[Salih] The visit takes on special importance, especially after a five-year lukewarm period as a result of the Gulf war. It was successful by all standards.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. President, what are the most important results of your visit to Saudi Arabia?

[Salih] The visit cleared the murky atmosphere in relations between the two neighboring fraternal countries and we found complete understanding from the brothers in the Kingdom. The discussion and dialogue were frank and clear on both sides. So the visit is regarded as successful by all measures. It eliminated all possible misunderstandings.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding the agreement you reached with Saudi Arabia, we heard there was an emphasis on the commitment to this agreement.

[Salih] The memorandum of understanding signed on 27 Ramadan laid the foundations for Yemeni-Saudi relations. Committees have been formed to translate this document into action.

[Al-Miliji] Quite frankly we heard that your adherence to the al-Ta'if accord has been controversial in some circles and we also heard that this visit resulted in the assertion of commitment to the al-Ta'if accord.

[Salih] The al-Ta'if accord has been in force. It was confirmed by the memorandum of understanding on 27 Ramadan and was ratified by the authorities in the two fraternal countries.

[Al-Miliji] Regarding your relations with Saudi Arabia, [word indistinct] bilateral relations, is there anything new?

[Salih] As stipulated by the memorandum of understanding, relations will grow and develop in light of the memorandum's provisions.

[Al-Miliji] What is the most important outcome of the visit as far as these relations are concerned?

[Salih] The assertion of the memorandum of understanding. The significance of the visit is that it emphasized the provisions of the memorandum of understanding.

[Al-Miliji] Mr. President, what about Yemen's relations with the neighboring Gulf states?

[Salih] As far as Yemen is concerned, it has no problem with its neighboring Gulf states and the rest of the Arab countries. The relations are distinguished and developed and are growing noticeably. There is no problem and we consider the visit to Saudi Arabia a new start to inter-Arab relations to clear the air and remove all clouds that have hung over relations between the Arab countries. We hope all Arab leaders will work together to clear the air in the interests of the entire Arab nation.

[Al-Miliji] We would like to be assured about the domestic situation in Yemen.

[Salih] Yemen is well. It triumphed in the September and October Yemeni revolutions. The Yemeni revolution supported principles and unity of Yemen. Yemen is now focusing on its administrative situation and fiscal and economic reform. This is an important battle for us and we are handling the situation or the problem that resulted from the war of separation. Surely the war left its bad marks, but the government is dealing with these economic conditions. The government has begun certain measures toward economic, fiscal, and administrative reform. Also, the democratic process is firm and continuing positively, especially now that the war of separation with the separatist traitors is over. We are achieving better results every day, so rest assured about the unity process and Yemeni unity. Be assured and let every Arab be assured that Yemen is well.

[Al-Miliji] Where are Yemeni-Egyptian relations heading?

[Salih] Yemeni-Egyptian relations are historic, excellent, and will not be marred by any flaw.

Salih Chairs Cabinet Session on Saudi Visit

JN0806200495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih chaired an extraordinary cabinet meeting at the Republican Palace today. The meeting was attended by Vice President Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur. The meeting dealt with a number of developments in the domestic, regional, and Arab scenes and issues related to the march of nation-building. The cabinet also discussed a report on the results of the successful and fruitful visit by Salih and his accompanying delegation to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 5-7 June at the invitation of Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

The cabinet praised the positive results of the visit and the talks which were held in a friendly and frank atmosphere and dealt with all issues of interest to the two countries and the future of their bilateral relations. The cabinet said that these results mark a new and good beginning in the fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples. It said that this will boost security, stability, and peace in the Arabian Peninsula and the region as a whole. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also stressed Yemen's keenness on promoting its fraternal relations with its brethren and neighbors in Saudi Arabia on all levels and in all areas based on the serious drive and the sincere desire of the two countries' leaderships, headed by Salih and King Fahd, and the aspirations of the two fraternal and neighborly peoples.

The cabinet also emphasized Yemen's desire to implement the memorandum of understanding signed between the two fraternal countries and to activate the meetings of the committees, which were formed by virtue of the memorandum, which will be held on the dates agreed upon by the two sides. [passage omitted]

The cabinet issued directives to ministers and concerned bodies in our country to establish contacts with their counterparts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to upgrade coordination and cooperation in the political, media, security, and economic areas and in Arab, Islamic, and international conferences in a manner that serves the interests of the two fraternal countries.

The cabinet also discussed various issues related to economic conditions and following up the implementation of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program. It assessed the results that have been made thus far in this regard.

Command Member Addresses al-Anbar Tribal Chiefs

JN0706161695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Iraq Command and officer in charge of Ba'th Party organizations in Salah al-Din and al-Anbar Governorate, has affirmed that our brave Iraqi people shall remain a sharp sword in the hand of leader President Saddam Husayn to chop off the neck of whoever contemplates threatening the security and sovereignty of our precious Iraq. Speaking during his meeting with the chiefs of tribes and clans and notables in al-Anbar Governorate, Comrade al-Ahmad said that the masses of al-Anbar Governorate shall remain loyal to the great leader Saddam Husayn and confront all conspiratorial plans and dirty and mean attempts to undermine the steadfastness of our struggling people. The comrade member of the Iraq Command praised the stands the of the sons of al-Anbar Governorate during the great battle, the immortal Mother of Battles.

The chiefs of tribes and clans and notables in al-Anbar Governorate expressed their profound affection for and pride in the courageous leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn as well as their solidarity behind his unique leadership in defense of the dear homeland and the achievements of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution.

Vice President Ramadan Meets DFLP's Hawatimah

JN0206201195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan met with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; the delegation accompanying him; and Taysir Qub'ah, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council.

During the meeting, Ramadan stressed that Iraq will not sit back with folded arms regarding attempts to extend the unjust blockade on its people. He pointed out that Iraq will expose the premeditated anti-Iraq political goals, which the United States is carrying out under the cover of the Security Council to harm Iraq's sovereignty and independence and to kill its people through economic aggression and blockade.

Nayif Hawatimah asserted that the struggle to lift the blockade on Iraq's people is the responsibility of all the free Arabs because while Iraq is besieged the enemies and their agents are working to carry out their hostile plans against the Arab nation. He also stressed that the Arab masses were with Iraq's people, who are vigorously defying the blockade and continuing construction and progress.

Al-Sahhaf Protests Use of UN 'Spy Aircraft'

JN0606110095 Baghdad INA in English 0825 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Jun 6 (INA) — Iraq has demanded the United Nations to reconsider the use of the spy aircraft in works of the UN Special Commission.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf called in a letter to UN chief Dr. Butrus-Ghali for using the Iraqi equipment in works of the UN Special Commission instead of the foreign ones.

The use of the Iraqi equipment will exclude any possibility of use the foreign ones in purposes prejudicing Iraq sovereignty and security, Mr. al-Sahhaf said, adding that the ongoing use of the foreign equipment conflict with aims and principles of the UN Charter in the respect of equality and sovereignty of all member states. [sentence as received]

Mr. al-Sahhaf notified the UN chief that the U.S. U-2 spy aircraft carried out four violations of Iraq airspace and flew over vast areas of the country for about 17 hours.

The Iraqi minister affirmed that the new violations brought the number to 250.

Mr. al-Sahhaf reaffirmed Iraq condemnation and denunciation to these unwarranted violations, saying this spy aircraft is being used for purposes differ from those defined by the Security Council and its activities blunt Iraq sovereignty and security. [sentence as received]

Rabin, Christopher Hold News Conference

TA0806164395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1510 GMT 8 Jun 95

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem; broadcast in progress — live; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Rabin] *...President Mubarak, the leader of the Arab country that started the peace process and signed a peace treaty with Israel. And today we are engaged in a meaningful peace process that brought about the agreement with the Palestinians, represented by the PLO — and the signed peace treaty with Jordan.*

I believe that as a result of your visit, we'll find ways to improve the overall atmosphere in the region by visiting Egypt, by your visit to Damascus on Saturday [10 June], and hopefully we'll bring about the resumption of the talks with Syria. We see today an improved mood — without underestimating still the obstacles that we have to remove from the road to achieve a comprehensive peace.

Mr. Secretary: The President of the United States, President Clinton, phoned yesterday, before you came, and described to me his talks with President al-Asad. And, he conveyed to me his impressions of improved mood on the part of the Syrians. Let's hope that the good mood will be translated to the practical negotiations that we have with the Palestinians and, hopefully, then the negotiations with Syria will be resumed.

Again, Mr. Secretary, we appreciate your personal efforts to serve the cause of peace in the region. Welcome to Israel. [passage omitted]

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Shlomo Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, a question in Hebrew, with your permission. Both peace team head Dennis Ross and Ambassador Rabinovich have practically said that talks are being conducted on substance. What substance in the context of the two countries' security arrangements are Israel and Syria discussing?

[Rabin] Substance by the name of security arrangements. The substance of security arrangements does not include generalizations only. They have to give answers on specific issues agreed on by Syria and Israel through U.S. mediation: the purpose of security arrangements and the prevention of border incidents — which is very easy to achieve with the Syrians, because there have been no border incidents in 19 years, no infiltrations along the Syrian-Israeli border on the Golan Heights. The second thing is, naturally, the prevention of war and of a sudden attack, of course. The third thing is, of course, defining the situations in which each side should inform the other of things that can be misinterpreted in situations such as training, exercises, or other similar things. That is to say, the goals of the security arrangements are defined and agreed on by us and Syria. Now, how do we translate them into facts? Demilitarized areas, areas in which few troops are deployed, early warning stations, early warning methods, ways of supervising the implementation of the military appendix — if one is achieved, along with the peace agreement. The latter would naturally have additional components, which are not discussed in the context of security arrangements.

[Unidentified correspondent] *Is the new and improved mood and the opportunity that you're both speaking of based entirely on the willingness of the parties to speak directly again, or is there any substantive progress in their positions?*

[Rabin] *As you know, there is no need for direct talks between us and the Palestinians. No problem of direct talks between the Palestinians and us, between the Egyptians and us, and between the Jordanians and us. In the lack of readiness on the part of the Syrians, we are more than thankful to the United States, to the President, to the secretary of state, to bring about direct talks — but with the presence of the American officials — and the readiness of the secretary of state to move between Damascus and Jerusalem and to create conditions that this kind of talks will be resumed. Therefore, we appreciate the role that the United States plays in every aspect of the peace process in all its sectors, but especially vis-a-vis Syria.* [passage omitted]

[IDF Radio correspondent Udi Segal] Mr. Prime Minister, can you explain how practical discussions on security arrangements are being conducted, although the extent of withdrawal has not yet been established? Will this issue be omitted from the Israeli-Syrian officers' talks?

[Rabin] Security arrangements can be discussed from a general viewpoint, without deciding on lines. Alternately, a number of options for different lines can be prepared. This is not necessarily what is going to happen, but discussing a given area from a general viewpoint is a possibility even if the border has not been accurately outlined.

Rabin Comments on Talks With President Mubarak

TA0906122895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] About an hour ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned from a brief visit to Cairo, during which he conferred with President Mubarak to iron out the differences in Israeli-Egyptian relations. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the prime minister conferred tete-a-tete with the Egyptian president for about an hour, and later they were joined by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher for a short conversation.

Speaking to journalists on his way back to Israel, Mr. Rabin said he does not object to Syria's holding a referendum on the agreement to be reached with Israel. Commenting on his meeting with President Mubarak, he said that it was meant to prevent a process that could have evolved in a negative direction and had already taken a wrong turn in recent months. The prime minister called on the Arab countries to contribute their share to the Palestinian Authority's budget because it cannot cover its deficit.

Air Force Chief Said Checking Golan Security Plans

TA0806180695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Herzl Budinger, the Israel Air Force commander, who is on a visit to the United States, has begun to look into the possible security arrangements with Syria, among other things, particularly the early-warning stations that Israel is demanding. This unofficial information has reached our political correspondent. It has not been corroborated by Israeli sources.

Kohl Denies 'Too Close Contacts' With Iran

AU0906134095 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 9 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by "eli": "Kohl: No Special Relations With Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — At the end of his visit to Israel, Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected the allegation that Germany is maintaining too close contacts with Iran and is therefore speaking with two voices if it also wants to promote the peace process in the Middle East. Germany has no intention whatsoever of maintaining close trade relations with Iran, Kohl stressed in Jerusalem. However, Bonn is highly interested in preserving the existing trade relations so that it gets back its debts from Iran. The Israeli side, particularly the public, accused Kohl that Germany is playing a double game if it does not isolate Iran. Israel feels threatened by the Iranian nuclear program and demands — just like the United States — Tehran's economic isolation.

Kohl also tried to dispel fears about the revival of right-wing extremism in Germany. Referring to the most recent Bundestag elections, he stated that, contrary to many other European countries, right-wing extremism has no political significance in Germany. However, it is true that the Federal Government must pay particular attention to this problem. Mockingly he added, that the right-wing radicals rather need medical than political attention.

Both Kohl and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed that relations between Israel and Germany have never before been so good. They repeatedly assured each other of their mutual friendship. Kohl spoke of a "real miracle" in view of the historical burdens in the relationship between Germans and Jews.

Kohl denounced fundamentalism and terrorism and described both as a danger for the Middle East and the world. He also wants to create an awareness in Germany that peace in the region is "also our peace." Kohl fears dramatic consequences for Europe if a radicalization of the Islamic world should take place.

Kohl again rejected the idea that Germany might play a mediating role in the peace process. This would be too big a task for any European. Above all, he suggested that Israel provide an economic basis for the peace process and expand contacts with the EU. In the EU, intensive negotiations on a cooperation agreement with Israel are currently under way. Kohl wants to vigorously support efforts to ensure favorable trade terms for Israel.

German Army Commander's Visit Reported

TA0906134195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by On Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the German Army's ground forces recently visited Israel and was the guest of his Israeli counterpart, Major General Ze'ev Livne. He visited IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units and a ground forces' training camp in Ze'elim and toured the northern border.

The visit, which reciprocated a visit to Germany by Gen. Livne, was the first visit to Israel by a senior German military commander. It was carried out within the framework of the working relations and cooperation between the two armies. During the visit, the German commander watched a combined forces exercise, after which he highly praised the Israeli Merkava Mk 3 and said it was one of the best tanks he had ever seen.

During the past six months, the chiefs of staff of the U.S., French, and German Armies have visited Israel and the IDF, which benefits all the armies and shows the good working relations between them.

UN Ambassador Meets New Bosnian Foreign Minister

TA0906053595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Ya'aqobi, met last night with Bosnia's new foreign minister, who until his latest appointment was the Bosnian representative to the United Nations. Israel and Bosnia do not have diplomatic ties.

The Bosnian diplomat thanked Israel for its support in calling for an end to the embargo on his country and its offer to provide humanitarian aid.

Opposition To Protest Judaea, Samaria Evacuation

TA0806134295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition leaders and Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip settlement leaders decided to set up a joint command which will use legitimate means to protest the government's intention to evacuate city centers in Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that in the meeting, held in Alfey Menashe, the opposition leaders also decided to hold elections or a national referendum before the implementation of the second stage of the agreements.

In reply to a question by our correspondent, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that the right wing does not intend to set up an army in addition to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in order to enter the bases to be evacuated.

New Immigrants Political Movement Formed by Sharansky

TA0806113595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Movement for Israel and Immigration, a new immigrants' movement headed by former Prisoner of Zion Natan Sharansky, was founded yesterday, with the intention of forming a basis for a political party focusing on issues of immigration and absorption.

The movement's leaders estimate that if it does become a party, it can get up to six Knesset seats in the 1996 elections.

One of the founders, Yuli Edelstein, deputy chairman of the Zionist Forum, said that "at the moment it's a public political movement which will use all the political means at its disposal to gain its objectives. If we don't succeed, we will consider turning into a party which will run for the Knesset."

Sharansky said yesterday that the new movement, which will act to advance new immigrants economically, socially and politically, is by no means a sectorial body of Russian immigrants only. "Our goal is to make the integration of exiles a central issue of our political life and pave the way for the arrival of at least one million immigrants from Russia in the near future. We want our society to attract new immigrants, rather than to wait until a pogrom occurs and they come anyway," he said. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Rabin Beating Netanyahu in Elections

TA0906104995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Jun 95 p 1

["YEDI'OT AHARONOT poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute headed by Mina Tzemah"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Were direct elections for prime minister held today, and the candidates were Yitzhaq Rabin and Binyamin Netanyahu, for whom would you have voted?

Rabin, 41 percent

Netanyahu, 39 percent
Undecided, 10 percent
Would Not Vote, 9 percent
No response, 1 percent

Were direct elections for prime minister held today and the candidates were Yitzhaq Rabin, Binyamin Netanyahu, Refa'el Eytan, and David Levi, for whom would you have voted?

Rabin, 37 percent

Netanyahu, 27 percent
Eytan, 9 percent
Levi, 7 percent
Undecided, 11 percent
Would not vote, 8 percent
No response, 1 percent

Were Knesset elections held today, and the existing lists were joined by three new lists — David Levi's list, the Third Way, and the Soviet immigrants list — for which list would you have voted?

	Forecast	Current Knesset Seats
Labor	36-37	44
Likud	32-33	32
Meretz	7	12
Tzomet	6	8
Moledet	3	3
NRP	7	6
UTJ	4	4
SHAS	5	6
HADASH, ADP	6	5
David Levi	5	-
Third Way	4	-
Soviet Immigrants	4	-
Total	120	120

[Key to abbreviations in table: NRP — National Religious Party; UTJ — United Torah Jewry; SHAS — Torah Observing Sephardim; HADASH — Democratic Front for Peace and Equality; ADP — Arab Democratic Party]

The poll, conducted on 6 and 7 June, encompassed 505 interviewees, who constitute a representative sample of the adult population. The margin of error is 4 percent.

Poll Shows Netanyahu Defeating Rabin Without Levi

TA0906113295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jun 95 p 4

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A poll conducted after MK [Knesset Member] David Levi said he would leave the Likud indicates that the tremors in the party have not greatly affected the prospects of leader Binyamin Netanyahu in a direct contest against Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Netanyahu would come out ahead with 41 percent of the vote, while Rabin trails with 37 percent, the poll shows. The rest of the respondents were undecided.

The poll was conducted by Gallup on Tuesday [6 June] and Wednesday and is based on a representative sample of 611 adult Israelis.

The pollsters decided to pit only Rabin and Netanyahu against each other and not include other possible contestants. It is assumed that these candidates would be eliminated in the first round, leaving only Rabin and Netanyahu for a runoff.

'Nationalistic' Motive Seen Behind Stabbing

TA0806182595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arye Danokh, about 50, from Tel Aviv was stabbed in the shoulder in Jerusalem's Old City at midday today. He was evacuated to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital with very slight injuries. The stabber escaped.

Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the stabbing was carried out on nationalistic grounds, and that as in the previous two stabbing incidents in the Old City last week, the stabber seems to have used a screwdriver. The police believe the same man was responsible for the three stabbings.

King Addresses Israelis on Regional Peace

JN0606163895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said he hopes that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty would be the cornerstone and the firm foundation for building a comprehensive peace in the region.

The king said Jordan would exert its utmost effort to realize the goal that peace between the peoples be a reality. He said the peoples in the area would then discover that they have the same aspirations and experiences, and they can jointly build up the prosperous future they deserve.

The king said that the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was the greatest challenge we faced to prove for the skeptics and the short-sighted that peace brings a better future for all the parties involved.

His majesty made the remarks at the Royal Court during an audience with an Israeli delegation from the Unified Aid Institution.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was present at the meeting.

Foreign Minister on Peace Process, Arab Ties

JN0706111995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that his vision of a new Middle East is that of an area free of conflicts in which its people are living in peace and are engaged in economic development and joining the bandwagon of progress.

In a statement to the New York-based newspaper AL-SHARARAH, al-Kabariti said that the importance of this region is increasing day by day and that this region should face all challenges so it can live up to what is required of it and play a role in the international community.

Concerning latest developments in the peace process, al-Kabariti said that both sisterly Syria and the Palestinian National Authority are holding negotiations with the Israelis and that there are positive developments in this regard. He hoped that the two Arab parties would be able to achieve their objective, which we strongly support.

On Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the foreign minister said that theses relations are special because the two peoples are linked by joint interests dictated by the demographic and geographical nature of the two countries.

As for Jordanian-Gulf relations, al-Kabariti said that these relations are improving and cannot in any way be described as tense. He noted that Jordan's relations with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are based on brotherhood and affection, adding: We are seeking in every field to clear the atmosphere and restore relations to normal.

He said: The Jordanian-Syrian relationship is distinguished and special and is founded on solid bases. He added that the peace treaty with Israel did not affect relations between the two countries.

Asked about the government's cooperation with heads of Jordanian communities in the United States through the establishment of investment projects in Jordan, the foreign minister said that establishing investment projects needs great effort as well as studies and planning in order to achieve the expected results.

UN Secretary Reed Visits, Meets With Officials

Discusses Refugees, Peace With al-Kabariti

JN0706171095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti has held talks with UN Assistant Secretary General Joseph Reed. Mr. al-Kabariti underlined the importance of the meetings of the UN coordinating committee underway in Amman, which focused on United Nations activities in the Middle East in light of the positive prospects of the ongoing peace process.

The foreign minister discussed the importance of the Jordanian role in building and protecting peace in the region.

On his part, the UN official reviewed activities of the United Nations and its agencies.

Discussions also tackled the budget of the UN Relief Agency and services given to Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

Reed Confers With Prime Minister

JN0806183895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has met visiting UN Under Secretary General Joseph Reed.

Mr. Reed conveyed a letter from UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to the premier on the financial and administrative difficulties facing the international organization.

Al-Sharif Bin-Shakir affirmed Jordan's support to the UN and his appreciation of the UN agencies' efforts.

He reviewed Jordan's participation in the international peace-keeping forces in which Jordan had the third largest contingent serving with the UN peace-keeping forces.

He warned of the dangers of reducing the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] services for Palestinian refugees and displaced persons. The prime minister spoke about ideas and proposals to be brought up at the Amman Middle East and North Africa summit and proposed Jordanian and regional projects Jordan hoped would be implemented under peace.

Yemeni President Telephones King Husayn

JN0806184395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon received a telephone call from his brother His Excellency Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

During the telephone conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on the scope of the fraternal relations between Jordan and Yemen and on the current Arab and regional issues.

The Yemeni president briefed King Husayn on the results of the Yemeni-Saudi talks and on what was agreed to restore the normal relations between both countries and resolve their outstanding bilateral issues.

King Husayn welcomed what the brothers have agreed upon and expressed satisfaction with any step that restores normal relations among the nation's sons, which will enhance Arab solidarity in order to face the circumstances and changes of this phase in a way that will preserve the nation's interests and give the nation the best opportunities for further cooperation on the path of progress and prosperity.

Editorial: Syrian-Israeli Talks U.S. 'Victory'

JN0906085595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Possible Breakthrough in Negotiations on Occupied Heights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid optimistic signs and hopes that are stronger than ever of the possibility of a breakthrough in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher began his 16th Middle East tour yesterday following a preparatory tour made by U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross.

Undoubtedly, the continuous efforts and strong determination of the U.S. diplomacy over several months had the best, if not all the effect in reaching the framework of understanding on the complicated security issues between Syria and Israel. Such a breakthrough will be an important U.S. diplomatic victory in this part of the world.

It seems that the U.S. secretary of state, who delayed his current tour several times awaiting results on which he could build has succeeded in ending the stalemate in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations and in upgrading the level of these negotiations by holding them on the level of chiefs of staff.

Based on all this, we are following Christopher's current tour with cautious optimism, and view the meeting between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff in Washington late this month as unprecedented progress. This progress raises hopes of realizing the aspired progress concerning the occupied Syrian heights, although we are aware of the size of the obstacles and difficulties that continue to exist in this rugged path.

U.S. Embassy Statement on Debt Relief Reported

JN0906101395 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1845 GMT 8 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The American Embassy in Amman said the United States is still committed to canceling Jordan's debts to Washington despite President Clinton's vetoing of legislation that included the measure.

Clinton yesterday rejected a bill that would have cut 16.4 billion U.S. dollars in spending. However, it included measures such as eliminating 275 million U.S. dollars in Jordanian debts to the United States.

An Embassy spokesman said the United States was firmly committed to ensure debt relief for Jordan.

The promise to write off all Jordanian debts to the U.S. Government was made by Clinton, and on several occasions American officials repeated they would honor the commitment.

'Rumors' on SLA Commander Plan To Quit

NC0806165595 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 26 May 95 p 11

[From "Secrets and Reports"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rumors in the occupied strip note that agent Antoine Lahd [commander of South Lebanese Army—SLA] will leave permanently for Paris. He will be replaced by agent Nabih Abu-Rafi', former commander of the eastern brigade, upon his return from Russia.

Fadlallah on 'Ashura' Ceremonies Controversy

NC0806103195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allahmah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated: We do not want the Karbala' anniversary to be a sectarian or factional Karbala'. He said: No one loyal to al-Husayn can act seditiously or create any problem for any Muslim and for any citizen.

In a sermon at the B'ir Hasan mosque [in Beirut] today, Fadlallah affirmed his refusal to recognize Israel's legitimacy even if the whole world recognizes it.

No Newspapers To Appear on 'Ashura'

NC0906061595 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of this newscast we would like to point out that the newspapers will not appear today on the occasion of 'Ashura'.

Hizballah Official Supports Libya at Rally

NC0806145095 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 26 May 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In solidarity with the Libyan Jamahiriyah's opposition to renewing the U.S. sanctions currently imposed on the Libyan people, the Arab Cultural Center in Beirut held a huge rally that was attended by political and diplomatic figures. They included representatives of the Iranian Embassy, led by counselor Mohammad 'Ali Zaboli; representatives of the nationalist and Islamic parties and the 10 Palestinian organizations [opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo Accord]; and Hizballah political bureau member al-Hajj Abu-Sa'id al-Khansa.

Addressing the rally, al-Khansa voiced the need to mobilize all forces to confront both the big and the small Satans—the United States and Zionist entity. He urged all the forces to set aside their differences and focus their struggle against the big tyrant. Al-Khansa added: We must act quickly. We must not continue to defend ourselves and find excuses whenever charges are made against us.

The Hizballah official maintained that a plot is being developed against the Muslims in the Arab and Islamic worlds; otherwise, what is the meaning of the embargo imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya, and why are the Iraqi people starved in the name of the United Nations and human rights? He described these as false humanitarian slogans.

Al-Khansa added: This plot makes it incumbent upon our nation to adopt a strategic position and unify our efforts to resist and confront international terrorism led by the United States and its attempts to control the nation's decisionmaking and future. The Hizballah official said: All forces must rally around the resistance as the only option to confront and triumph over this big tyrant. We must endeavor to draw up a practical, limited program for liberation.

The Hizballah political bureau official called for defending the people who are paying a high price to defend their nation's honor and dignity. Al-Khansa concluded his speech by returning the greetings of the resistance in Lebanon and the intifadah in Palestine, which are defending the nation's sanctities. [passage omitted]

Vice President on Israel Talks, Security Arrangements

JN0906123495 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Jun 95 p 17

[Interview with Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah by 'Assaf 'Abbud in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abbud] A few days ago, the parties to and cosponsors of the peace process announced the achievement of progress in security arrangements. A meeting is also scheduled to be held at the end of this month for the military experts. What do you expect for the peace process after this progress, and following the tour Dennis Ross and Warren Christopher will make to the region?

[Mashariqah] We should judge things by their conclusions. The understandings reached on the security arrangements is just one step which should be implemented by both sides' military experts. Dennis Ross, coordinator of the peace process, will arrive in Damascus next week. He will be followed by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They will discuss with both sides the required preparations for the military experts' meeting at the end of this month, and Washington's participation in this. So, we should wait and see what the two U.S. envoys will carry with them during their visit, the results of their tour of the region, as well as the results of the military experts' meeting to know the outcome. This is because despite the progress that has been announced and all that has taken place, Israel is still establishing and expanding settlements and working to Judaize Jerusalem. Its leaders say that Jerusalem is their eternal capital. Arab citizens in the occupied territories are exposed to the most hideous forms of repression, terrorism, and suppression. This is why it is necessary to know the true Israeli intentions during the coming talks, and whether it seeks to achieve a true and just peace in light of these actions.

['Abbud] From your position as a vice president, how do you assess the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track since the Madrid conference?

[Mashariqah] More than three and a half years have passed since the Madrid conference which was held on 30 October 1991. However, no tangible progress has thus far been made in the peace process. This is due to Israel's maneuverings, lack of seriousness, and desire to have both the land and peace together. This is also due to Israel's refusal to abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; and its continued confiscation of Arab lands to establish more settlements on them, expand the existing settlements, Judaize the Arab city of Jerusalem, and bring more Jewish immigrants to them. This is also because Israel's leaders say that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. In addition, Israel is practicing the ugliest kind of oppression, terrorism, and suppression against Arab citizens in the occupied territories. For five months now, Israel has been besieging Lebanon's south coast and bombarding the residents of the south. The Israeli leaders still dream of fulfilling their Torah dreams in the Arab region and controlling its political, economic, military, and cultural resources.

Syria has adopted a serious attitude toward the peace process. Peace with Israel is a strategic option, but the peace that Syria seeks is one based on justice and right and that leads to Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines and its withdrawal from southern Lebanon in accordance with the land-for-peace principle. Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace that gives each party its rights in accordance with the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy.

This peace should also provide reciprocal [mutaqabilah], equitable [mutakafi'ah], equal [mutasawiyah], and parallel [mutawaziyah] security arrangements on both sides. This peace should lead to the restoration of the occupied Arab territories and the usurped rights and should stem from the principles of justice and right.

['Abbud] Israel says that it is coming under pressure in the peace process through Syria's use of the Lebanese resistance and the Palestinian opposition as a bargaining chip in the negotiating process. How true is this, and what is Syria's political stance toward the Palestinian and Lebanese national resistance?

[Mashariqah] The national resistance in southern Lebanon is a natural and inevitable outcome of Israel's occupation and of Israel's practicing of the ugliest kind of terrorism and suppression against the residents of the south. Resistance against the occupiers is a legitimate right that is guaranteed by all norms and laws. As for the Palestinian opposition, it expresses freely what it perceives as relinquishment of Palestinian rights by the limited self-rule authority, as a result of the Oslo and later accords. The Palestinian opposition also denounces Israel's expansionist, aggressive policy in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is a natural right, since the opposition is also concerned with Palestinian affairs and the Palestinian cause is also their cause. [passage omitted]

Paper: Latest Christopher Tour 'Cause for Optimism'

JN0906080795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 9 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH comments on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region. In a statement which he usually makes before every tour, Christopher reasserted his administration's commitment toward peace efforts. He cited several elements which could activate and advance the peace process. Christopher, however, cautioned against expectations of positive results for his tour, citing the many gaps that still exist on the Syrian-Israeli track.

AL-BA'TH says that no progress was made during the U.S. secretary's previous tours because of Israel's intransigence and adherence to conditions that have nothing to do with the peace initiative. The world has been unanimous over the past months about Israel's intransigence, especially when observers analyze the Syrian position in all its aspects. Those observers would finally support this position, since it is committed to international legitimacy and UN resolutions and the peace initiative.

The paper says Christopher's new tour is different from the previous ones, because it is taking place in the aftermath of Israeli statements that clearly signal abandonment of its intransigent stands. Thus, there is cause for optimism. The U.S. secretary himself, however, did not go too far in his optimism, so he placed success and failure side by side. Perhaps this is because he is well aware of the Israeli mentality. The so-called new stands announced by Rabin and Peres could be verbal tests that are far removed from reality unless they are coupled with implementation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: There is a great opportunity for peace now. This is because Syria has worked to make the peace process succeed. The U.S. Administration has also reaffirmed its commitment toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Israel should now implement all the components of the peace initiative.

Radio: Total Israeli Withdrawal 'Key to Peace'

JN0906155695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The United States has reiterated its commitment to peace in the Middle East. President Clinton has said that he trusts Syria's peace intentions. But U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is currently touring the region, has expressed guarded optimism and referred to the existence of gaps between Syrian and Israeli positions. This, he said, requires serious and persistent work, as well as a quick move. In fact, the factors for a just solution have been thoroughly discussed in Washington over the past three and a half years. The time is now ripe for decisive decisions to push the peace process forward. Foremost of these decisions is the total withdrawal from the Golan and the return of the Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Total Israeli withdrawal is a key to peace with Syria and Lebanon and to security. Without such a withdrawal, it is impossible to bring about peace or provide security. Even if considered in terms of profits and losses, Israel will gain, although peace is too noble to be a commercial bargain. By withdrawing from the Golan and southern Lebanon, Israel will have done nothing other than returning an occupied land to its owners and correcting an abnormal situation that conflicts with the principles and charters of the international community. In return, it will gain peace, which means security, because there is no security without peace. One glance at events in southern Lebanon is enough to see that, even with all its military concentrations, Israel has not achieved security for Tel Aviv. Continued occupation will further aggravate the situation.

History has proved that states and entities that based their existence on expansion, aggression, and military power, have not known the meaning or taste of peace and security. They were resisted by nations in defense of their lands and sovereignty. Time is undoubtedly ripe for achieving a qualitative move in the peace process, especially since Syria and Israel have reached an understanding on the broad lines of security. The success of the negotiations, which may resume late this month, as hinted at by the U.S. secretary of state, depends on sincere Israeli intentions and a true will to transfer the region from the hotbeds of wars and dispute to the promising atmospheres of peace.

Syria has nothing to offer except its desire for peace and its sincere willingness to end the conflict. It is true that the Arab- Israeli conflict has become very complicated as a result of a legacy of 50 years of wars and tension. But meeting the Security Council's resolutions, the principles of international law, and UN charters will overcome all difficulties, no matter how thorny they are.

Washington negotiations have not produced any decisive progress because Israel foiled the Security Council's resolutions and refused to consider them a basic term of reference of the peace process. These resolutions oppose the occupation of other people's lands, settlement operations, and the change or annexation of the occupied territories. They also consider settlement the opposite of peace and a flagrant aggression on the principles of the international community. Hence, Israel will prove its peace endeavors if it carries out a total withdrawal and dismantles settlements in the occupied territories in implementation of these resolutions. Peace is said to prevail by deeds.

Radio Calls Security Understanding 'Insufficient'

JN0806153295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1131 GMT 8 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: No doubt, many positive signs have emanated from the announcement on reaching a Syrian-Israeli understanding on a framework for security arrangements.

However, practical implementation of the principles of this understanding, following full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines, is still the test to real progress in the peace process.

The intensification of U.S. efforts in this way in the region — which is accompanied by renewing the U.S. commitments to working for a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace formula — suggests U.S. insistence on realizing an achievement in the peace process. Such an achievement could be a qualitative stride that will open the door wide open for peace and for achieving the sought objectives of the peace process.

If the Israeli intentions are sincere, then what is taking place in terms of laying firm bases to revive the Syrian-Israeli talks with U.S. participation can render successful the understanding on the security arrangements, so points of agreement can be practically implemented.

What counts, however, is the precise implementation of the agreed principles regarding the equality [tasawi], parallelism [tawazi], and equitable reciprocity [tabaduliha bi al-takafu'] of the security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 line. President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that Syria cannot relinquish this line.

We do not believe that raising outdated proposals can be appropriate for rendering the U.S. efforts a success and thus for proceeding confidently and pushing the peace process toward the aspired objective.

Full withdrawal in return for full peace is a consistent basis that cannot be tampered with under any circumstances because the conflict has been waged over the land. For its part, peace means removal of occupation, injustice, and usurpation. Hence, peace cannot coexist with occupation. The partial agreements experience is the best proof that the various methods of bargaining have failed to make viable peace that can bring about security and stability in the region.

Reaching understanding on the security arrangements is a necessary but an insufficient step. It is an important step which can be followed by more important steps. These steps begin with full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 lines. They also include implementing the remaining aspects of peace by securing the interests of all and preserving the dignity of all under regional security and stability.

Israel should now confirm its good intentions more than before. This is so because when Israel commits itself to the principle of full withdrawal and implements the framework of principles on the security arrangements through equality [tasawi], parallelism [tawazi], equitability [takafu'], and balance [tawazun] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 line, an actual progress in the peace process can be a tangible reality, and peace can be at hand.

No doubt, the ongoing intensive U.S. efforts and the current tours of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, and Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, are extremely important in view of the crucial and sensitive phase the peace process is experiencing, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli track where there is still cautious optimism.

This requires showing good intentions and confirming them on the ground through good preparation for the expert talks. These talks can make peace a reality if they are well-planned and if they proceed according to the understanding reached on some points of the security arrangements. President Hafiz al-Asad called such an understanding an additional confirmation, a sign, or a reference point that can make a progress.

Making progress needs sincere efforts, so there can be talk about turning a positive point into a practical and realistic achievement. Such an achievement is the thing which will judge all that is taking place.

India

Official: No Yielding to U.S. Over Power Project

BK0806153795 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I says it has no proposal at the moment to enter into any alliance with any other party in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the next elections. The party spokesperson, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in New Delhi today the Congress-I will play the role of an opposition in Uttar Pradesh.

Briefing newspersons, he reiterated that the party had no role in the recent political developments in Uttar Pradesh. Criticizing the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the spokesman alleged that what the BJP has done in Uttar Pradesh is consistent with its politics of deceit and falsehood.

Speaking about the Enron power project in Maharashtra, Mr. Gadgil said the country will not yield to any pressure from the United States. He said the issue will be settled on merit.

Article Cites U.S. 'Ultimatum' on Power Project

BK0906022995 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 8 Jun 95 p 11

[Article by Jairam Ramesh: "Blackmail Over Enron"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is truly extraordinary. An American company whose total installed capacity is less than 1,500 MW, holding a country that has put up 75,000 MW of its own to ransom. The US government issuing a direct ultimatum. The Chancellor of the Exchequer of a second-rate industrial power issuing a gentle threat. The French expressing concern. Fly-by-night operators masquerading as independent power producer associations dictating terms. And the entire government machinery acting as sole selling agents of one particular foreign company.

Enron is being made out to be the test case for our commitment to reforms. Balderdash, as the CEC [Central Executive Committee] would say. Foreign investment will continue to come in simply because very few countries in the world offer the growth opportunities India does. No telecom major has left India on account of the US West controversy. For every Enron thrown out, there will be an ABB waiting to pick up the pieces. Bechtel and GE, Enron's partners in Dabhol, have too much at stake in India for them to pull out along with Enron. GE did not pack up when it, unfairly in its view, lost a major aircraft engine contract in 1991. The world understands toughness. The Chinese and the Malaysians, if they had been threatened and blackmailed as we are being, would have just asked the company to pack up and go home. Even the management guru Professor C K Prahalad has been arguing that India is not taking advantage of its internal market strength while negotiating for foreign investment.

Enron is not bringing any great technical expertise that cannot be mobilised by Indian companies in the public and the private sector. After all, this country adds 4,000-5,000 MW of power generating capacity every year. The Dabhol project will use hydro- carbon fuel that is the easiest fuel to use. It is also not true to say that we lack utility management expertise. NTPC [National Thermal Power Corporation] has turned around the Unchahar power station in UP [Uttar Pradesh] and upped its plant load factor from 25 per cent to over 65 per cent. Private companies like Tata Electric, BSES, and CESC have outstanding track records. All that Enron can claim is the capability to mobilise international financing. But is that capability unique? Would not Indian financial institutions like ICICI [Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India], IL&FS and others be able to do so given the type of concessions that Enron has been able to extract from the government?

The World Bank refused to participate in the Enron project. But Enron says that without its involvement international lenders would not be looking at the Indian power sector seriously. Perhaps. But if we restructured the power industry this will not be the case. Over two years ago, an NDC [National Development Council] Committee was set up to suggest an agenda for reform. Why is the government fighting shy of making this report public and initiating action on its recommendations? It is a sad commentary on us if we are to perennially depend on the foreign hand to do things that are eminently sensible and desirable.

We must maintain a sense of perspective on foreign power. The Finance Minister alone has this perspective, but his lips are sealed. Enron-type projects will add 4,000 MW of generating capacity in the next five years, that is, an amount that the country adds, annually through public investment. But in the last three-four years, the entire debate in the power sector and the entire energies of the government have been devoted exclusively to promote the cause of foreign power companies or of Indian companies manufacturing televisions, washing machines and pharmaceuticals wanting to diversify into the power sector. The type of companies that are entering the power generation field are unlikely to be long-term players.

Then there is the issue of fuelmix. Almost 45 per cent of the private power capacity being proposed use liquid petroleum fuel. Is this wise? Will this not increase our external dependence and introduce and element of vulnerability into our strategic energy sector? 80 per cent of India's hydel [hydroelectric] potential is waiting to be tapped, albeit in a more environment-friendly way. Coal is our major energy resource and investments to improve the technology of coal mining, transportation and utilisation are of fundamental importance.

It has always been a trick of power planners to inflate demand estimates and lobby for expensive additions to generating capacity. New capacity is needed, but not at the frighteningly high rate as is being projected by advocates of foreign power. We would get another 4,000-5,000 MW of existing capacity at about one-third the cost and one-fourth the time as new capacity. Major investments in new- transmission and distribution technology and privatisation of distribution systems will also yield quick pay-offs.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] itself is keen on the project as a responsible political party that is Washington-friendly. That is why ultimately Enron's first phase will go through with minor modifications and its as-yet finalised second phase would be renegotiated. When the dust settles, we must turn our energies to addressing the basics in the power industry. At the same time, foreign investors, including Enron, must become more sensitive to a democratic, pluralistic, entrepreneurally rich and technological capable India's concerns, realities and needs.

Article Notes Limitations of U.S. Defense Ties

BK0906020695 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 8 Jun 95 p 13

[Article by unattributed defense correspondent: "Indo-US Defence Ties Will Remain a Low-Key Affair"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has managed to limit the scope of defence cooperation between Delhi and Washington by getting an assurance from the United States that it will not supply advanced defence technologies to India.

The American defence secretary, Mr William Perry, had publicly "ruled out transfer of defence technology to India in the immediate future," at the signing of the minutes of raised defence cooperation between the two countries in Delhi in January. Pentagon's recent commitment to Pakistan has dashed any future hopes of India getting defence technology from the United States. It is ironic that when the Indian defence office has managed to persuade the Pentagon to accord importance to the formation of a Joint Technical Group after five months of intense haggling, there is little that it can deliver in the changed circumstances.

The first official visit, therefore, of top Indian defence officials to the Pentagon scheduled on June 21 is unlikely to be anything more than a courtesy call. It may be even difficult to call the forthcoming visit as an exploratory one, as Pakistan has hit India where it hurts the most. Contrary to the suggestion made by the Pentagon that both countries lay emphasis on transparency in strategic planning and raising the level of military co-operation, senior defence officials maintained that a simultaneous revival of the 1984 MOU [memorandum of understanding] on Science and Technology be lifted for more bilateral interaction in defence technology.

The United States has never been keen to transfer technology to India after the formation of the Missile Technology Control Regime in 1987, which owes its very existence to Indian indigenous integrated guided missile programme. Although the Lindstrom team from the Pentagon visited India in 1986 to discuss the "mission- areas" of Aeronautics/Light Combat Aircraft, Instrumentation and training at the National Test Range and the third-generation anti- tank systems, assistance which was promised on the anti-tank programme was suddenly withdrawn. It has since been a long saga of American denials and pressures on the dual-use technologies for India.

Another imperceptible setback is the differing perceptions of the defence and foreign office. The defence ministry attaches highest importance to defence technology transfer in electronics and computer fields, as these are the real force multipliers. Services headquarters understand that the outcome of a war will be determined by real-time intelligence and communications, accuracy and range of weapons, rather than 28 F-16's for Pakistan (these, at best, make two weak squadrons), which are part of their Air Force's replacement programme.

The sole concern of the foreign office is to ensure that 28 F- 16's are not given to Pakistan, irrespective of major concessions which the Pakistan defence office has extracted from the Clinton administration. The United States Congress and the administration are already working on ways to dilute the Pressler Amendment, so that Pakistani weapon system held with America can be repaired by commercial deals and returned back in fighting shape. It is difficult to believe the external affairs minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, that Washington did not discuss Prithvi during his recent visit there. Americans are focussed on the nuclear and missile programmes in South Asia. Top officials in the defence ministry admit, in private, about the intense American pressure on Prithvi and Agni programmes. Senior Army officers say it is possible that the foreign office may have done an expensive trade-off of no- productionisation of indigenous Prithvi missiles with no transfer of F-16s for Pakistan, with the United States.

It has been reported that the foreign office is working overtime to get Washington to gradually return the money of F-16s to Pakistan so that it cannot use the compensation package to procure arms from elsewhere. It betrays a poor understanding of the relation between the defence forces and the government in Pakistan. In a country where the Army enjoys a special status, finances are never a constraint should it decide to procure what it considers as its immediate operational requirement.

German Team Visits Kashmir To Assess Situation

Delegation Arrives, Begins Talks

BK0606163395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A three-member German delegation has arrived in Jammu on a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to assess the prevailing situation. Representatives of various political parties and organizations met the delegation today. They urged the international community to exert pressure on Pakistan to stop its aid to militants and not to hinder the electoral process in the state. The delegation will meet more political leaders tomorrow before leaving for Srinagar.

Team Leader: Against 'Terrorism'

BK0706122095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leader of the German parliamentary delegation currently visiting Jammu and Kashmir has said that his country is strictly against terrorism and use of force to solve any regional or ethnic problems.

Mr. (Willy Wimmer) was addressing a press conference in Jammu today. He said that the Kashmir issue must be solved by India and Pakistan through dialogue and mutual cooperation. Mr. (Wimmer) was of the opinion that anybody who believes in democracy will agree that elections are vital in the valley.

Replying to a question, Mr. (Wimmer) said that those responsible for ethnic and religious cleansing in Kashmir will never get the support of the international community. He said the Kashmiri migrants have a right to return to their homes in the valley.

The German parliamentary delegation had visited a camp of Kashmiri migrants near Jammu yesterday. It also met deputations of various political parties including the National Conference, the Congress-I, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the Janata Dal, the CPI [Communist Party of India], and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist].

Team Meets With Governor

BK0806094395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The German delegation headed by the former defense minister, Mr. Willy Wimmer, met the Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, in Srinagar last evening and discussed the prevailing situation in the state. The governor briefed the delegation about the steps being taken to restore the democratic institutions in the state. He informed that with the cooperation of the people militancy in the valley is being curbed effectively. The governor said Pakistan is actively behind the present turmoil in the state.

Official Denies Role in Uttar Pradesh Politics

BK0806141795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I says it has no proposal at the moment to enter into alliance with any other party in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the next elections. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newspersons in New Delhi today that the Congress-I will play a role of an opposition in Uttar Pradesh. He reiterated that the party had no role in the recent political developments in Uttar Pradesh. Criticizing the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the spokesman alleged that what the BJP has done in Uttar Pradesh is consistent with its politics of falsehood.

Oil, Gas Exploration Program Enhanced

95AS0371A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Apr 95 p 11

[Unattributed article: "Rs 6,500-Crore Enhanced Oil Exploration Plan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 17. The government has decided to undertake a Rs 6,500-crore enhanced oil and gas exploration programme for the remaining years of the eighth plan ending 1996-97 to rectify the situation of low reserve accretion.

This is over and above the approved plan allocation of nearly Rs 19,000 crores for the entire eighth plan, which is however far less than the planning commission recommended allocation of Rs 25,000 crores.

The ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] and OIL [expansion not given] had however projected an allocation demand of Rs 35,000 crores for the entire eighth plan period for exploration and production activities.

While government approval for the enhanced O and G exploration programme has been obtained, the detailed work programme is being finalised by ONGC and OIL, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas has said in a reply to the parliamentary standing committee on petroleum and natural gas which has expressed serious concern over the low crude and gas reserve accretion in the first two years of the eighth plan namely 1992-93 and 1993-94.

After a recent review the government observed accretion to in place reserves during the first two years of the eighth plan was very small at about 125 million tonnes as against the target of 1,325 million tonnes.

This low accretion of reserves was inspite of the fact that the targets of physical work programmes were generally met.

The standing committee said that the low reserve accretion was attributed to scarcity of funds. The petroleum secretary had also informed the committee that the oil companies needed a longer gestation period for planning their projects, sanction of funds had to be done in advance rather than on a year to year basis.

About 60 per cent of the funds earmarked for the eighth plan had already been spent in the first two years and only 40 per cent remained for exploration and production activities during the next three years.

The committee urged the government to give priority to this sector and allocate required funds so that the country was able to raise its self sufficiency level in the matter of petroleum products which had come down to 42 per cent during 1992-93 from the level of about 67 per cent achieved in 1984-85.

The committee noted that against the production of crude oil of 34 million tonnes during 1989-90, its production had come down to about 27 million tonnes in 1992-93.

The demand for petroleum products was increasing at a faster rate and by the end of the eighth plan in 1996-97, the expected requirements of petroleum products would be about 79 million tonnes.

Indigenous crude oil production would be about 44 million tonnes (39 million tonnes by ONGC and OIL and five million tonnes by private companies) by the end of 1996-97.

The committee expressed concern that despite expected substantial increase in crude oil production by 1996-97, the yawning gap between demand and indigenous availability of crude oil would further widen during the same period swelling the oil import bill from Rs 17,000 crores to Rs 20,000 crores.

The committee was informed that the decline in crude oil production was mainly due to the foreign exchange crunch during 1989-90 and 1999-91 [as published] and also due to some technical problems at Bombay high oil field, the major production centre.

The committee said the ministry should take measures to increase oil production as it was crucial for the growth of the Indian economy as a whole.

Production of crude oil in the country fell from 1989-90 till 1992-93. The government initiated a number of short-term and medium-term measures as a result of which the decline in production of crude oil was arrested during 1993-94 and a level of 27.105 MMT was reached compared to 26.95 MMT of 1992-93.

As a result of the above and completion of ongoing development projects production of crude oil from the current year 1994-95 onwards is earmarked to increase substantially.

The following table indicates the production scenario. Year ONGC/OIL joint ventures total 1994-95 32.51 MMT —— 32.51 MMT 1995-96 38.17 MMT 0.20 MMT 38.37 MMT 1996-97 39.22 MMT 5.23 MMT 44.45 MMT.

Indigenous production of crude oil expected to increase by over 0.50 MMT over actual production of 27.015 MMT achieved last year.

Production in 1996-97 is also expected to register a quantum jump to reach a level of 44.45 MMT by the end of the plan period in 1996-97.

The aforementioned increase in crude oil production is expected to come through the development of some new fields like South Heera, Gandhar Phase two as also through additional development of some existing fields like 1-2 and 1-3 in the western offshore and discovered fields, Heera and Panna which would be developed through joint ventures between ONGC and private companies.

The committee also expressed concern over cost and time overruns on certain projects which had also contributed to the decline in oil production. **PTI**

Iran

Radio: Christopher Will 'Fail' To Secure Agreement

LD0806212095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 8 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Tel Aviv on Thursday June 8th. He has travelled to the Middle East in pursuit of U.S. efforts to stabilize Washington's policies aimed at legitimizing the Quds-occupier regime [Israel]. During his trip to the region Mr. Christopher is expected to visit the occupied Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria.

In the opinion of Middle East political analysts, Mr. Christopher is now optimistic of somehow convincing the Zionist regime to present a practical plan on restoring the Golan Heights to Syria. This is because Washington knows that basically every peace plan on the Middle East is bound to fail without securing Syria's agreement. The subject of the Golan Heights is vital and non-negotiable for Syria. Washington fully discerns this issue and for this very reason it seems that the U.S., prior to being able to pressure Syria, is seeking more concessions from the Zionist regime in the pursuit of its long-term objectives in the Middle East.

The ringleaders of the Tel Aviv regime, too, do not enjoy a favorable situation domestically to extend the concessions demanded by Washington. Hence by relying on the present policy of procrastination, they are endeavoring to exploit the existing conditions in the maximum while extending minimum concessions. On this basis, it is already evident that the U.S. secretary of state will fail to secure any notable agreement in the current round of his talks on the Middle East, just as his earlier rounds.

Political observers believe that the formula on peace in return for land has now become further meaningless for the Zionist regime. It seems that the Syrian government is duly cognizant of the matter. However, since Damascus is not willing to be accused of obstructing the peace process, it is trying to keep the door open for political talks so that the Zionist regime may virtually fall in a passive position. Despite this, the experience from the four-year-long talks in the so-called Middle East peace process has shown that the Zionist regime is practically in quest of solely legitimizing its illegitimate entity in the region. Hence it is willing to take a small move for the opposing side only after securing some major important concessions.

Daily Views U.S. Support for Israel in West Bank

LD0706103495 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jun 7, IRNA — The Zionist regime felt safe in doing whatever it wishes to do irrespective of international laws because it knew that if there were critics, the United States would see them, said the morning daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' here Wednesday [7 June].

Commenting on the Zionist regime's attitude towards Palestinians, the English-Language daily wrote that each passing day made it increasingly obvious that Israel was unwilling to meet its Oslo commitments on the West Bank.

Despite its undertakings, Israel refused to withdraw troops from the West Bank arguing that 'Arafat must first assert total control over opponents of the peace accord especially Hamas and Islamic Jihad, said the paper.

The aim of Rabin was to make 'Arafat do Israel's job in fighting the Palestinians who want their homeland to be governed by the Palestinians themselves and not the Zionists, added the paper.

It argued that Rabin's endoresment of plans, although suspended in a new diplomatic tactic, to construct 7,000 new homes in east Beyt-al-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] has not only demonstrated Israel's customary disregard for its commitments and Arab rights, indicated that he was trying to implement the Zionist plan which wanted the whole city as its united and eternal capital.

It added that expropriation of 130 acres of Palestinian lands in Beyt-al-Moqaddas was contrary to all the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine.

Noting that the U.S. has recently vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution outlawing and condemning the latest Israeli expropriation of Palestinian lands, the paper said that observers of all persuations were convinced that the U.S. would prevent, by using its unjust veto right, any action that might seriously embarass the Israelis.

Naturally, the Palestinian authority was expected to gain nothing by the relying on the so-called peace process since from the very base the broker, the U.S., is not honest, although 'Arafat continued to hope to establish an independent Palestinian state with east Beyt-al-Moqaddas as its capital.

Stressing that the arrogance could not prevail forever, the paper said in conclusion that there was a principle for the Zionist leaders which is "a Palestinian states would be the beginning of the end of Israel."

Clinton Seen Moving Toward Balkan Involvement

NC0906082395 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Jun 95 p 12

[Political commentary: "Clinton Is Seeking To Save Face for NATO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. President Bill Clinton has greatly increased the speculation that U.S. forces will be stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina to assist UN forces in their departure.

Yesterday, he announced: "I believe that if NATO decides to assist the UN forces in departing from Bosnia-Herzegovina or in rearranging and reinforcing them, we should, after consultation with Congress, be prepared to assist NATO if necessary." According to a CNN report, Clinton's advisers said that he made this decision reluctantly on 30 May after a telephone conversation with British Prime Minister, John Major and the French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

In his address to the cadets graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado yesterday, Clinton stated: "We have commitments to our NATO allies and I believe that we cannot leave them in the lurch."

Of course Clinton said: NATO has not made any official request to the United States for assistance and insists that no definite decision has been made so far.

He claimed any deployment of U.S. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be temporary and limited, and assured the U.S. people that U.S. forces will not join the UN peacekeepers. Despite this, his associates have confidentially revealed that all his remarks indicate that a remarkable change has occurred in his policy (on Bosnia-Herzegovina).

In the past, Clinton had stressed that U.S. forces would only be used in the event of a full-fledged retreat of forces from Bosnia-Herzegovina or following a peace agreement in that country. However, with UN forces being taken hostage after NATO attacks on Serb positions, Clinton has been motivated to reevaluate his policy.

The associates of the U.S. President confirm that Clinton asked his NATO allies to carry out air attacks without considering the reaction of the Serbs. Thus, Clinton is trying to involve U.S. land forces in the Bosnian war in order to save face for his NATO allies. Meanwhile the national security adviser of former U.S. President George Bush said: "The paths that Clinton has in mind for eliminating his problems are all detrimental to the United States. We have basically shot ourselves in the foot this time."

On the other hand one Congressman said: I think that if Clinton wants to deploy U.S. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he will first have to convince the members of the U.S. Congress.

The White House hierarchy is hopeful that the none of these measures will be necessary. However such a possibility is becoming more and more probable. Many political dangers threaten Clinton, especially now that he is caught up in the election campaign for the U.S. presidential elections.

Article Cites Velayati Downplaying U.S. Sanctions

BR0906105595 Paris LE FIGARO in French 9 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Claude Lorieux on interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran, date not given: "'Ali Velayati: A Country Such as Iran Cannot Be Isolated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran — "The embargo decreed by President Clinton will have no major impact on the Iranian economy. In any case, the embargo is not really anything new. The United States imposed sanctions on us immediately after the victory of our revolution," Tehran's foreign minister told LE FIGARO a few hours after the U.S. economic and financial embargo came into effect.

With reference to the time of the Iraq-Iran war, he added: "The Americans did their utmost to weaken us. The helped Iraq both directly and indirectly. They bombarded several Iranian oil platforms and brought down an Airbus with almost 200 Iranian civilians on board."

Now "the country's economic situation is much better," Mr. Velayati said, listing the advances made in several fields — the construction of infrastructure, steel and petrochemical plants and agriculture.

How can the minister be so optimistic when a major share of oil revenue will continue to be swallowed up in serving the foreign debt for a further three or four years? 'Ali Velayati did not answer directly: "If a country wants to be independent, it must pay the price. This is an argument that the French can understand. It is possible, however, that countries totally under the superpowers' thumb may not understand what I am saying. You cannot isolate a country such as Iran. It is a great country, which shares land and sea borders with almost 15 states."

The Iranian foreign minister went on: "The governments that have expressed an opinion about the embargo have all condemned it — even Britain. All except Israel.

Several neighboring foreign ministers telephoned me to say that they wanted to help us. Iran's international position has never been so strong." He added: "The majority of the Iranian population support the policy of independence They know that independence has its price."

By resuming the embargo against Tehran, is the United States not throwing the Islamic Republic into the arms of Iraq, another "victim" of the U.S. strategy of "dual containment?" 'Ali Velayati explained: "Some paragraphs of UN Resolution 598 (which ended the eight-year Iraq-Iran war — LE FIGARO editor's note) have still not been implemented. They concern prisoners of war and the demarcation of the border. It was primarily in the hope of rectifying these anomalies that we decided to resume our relations with Baghdad. We send a delegation there. We are expecting a delegation from Baghdad. I myself will visit there if necessary to ensure that the paragraphs in question of Resolution 598 are implemented."

Tehran "Will Send No Commandos to Europe"

The Iranian press has given broad coverage to a remark by Mr. Velayati concerning the writer, Salman Rushdie: "Our government will send no money and no commandos to kill anyone in Europe." Is this statement really anything new? Does it cancel out Ayatollah Khomeyni's "fatwa" condemning the author of the Satanic Verses? "The fatwa is one thing, but the sending out of a commando of gunmen is another. The fatwa is a religious decision whose validity has been confirmed several times by the 51 members of the Islamic Conference Organization, most recently in December at the Casablanca summit. Sunnites and Shiites are agreed on this point. Politicians cannot change anything about this. It lies outside their sphere of competence. In any case, no educated Muslim can disapprove of the fatwa. As for the Iranian Government, it has said repeatedly that it would not send any money to Britain or anywhere else to kill anyone. This is our position." Tehran has promised to reply to the European Union on this point soon.

Does 'Ali Velayati's pledge extend to the Iranian opposition in exile, several representatives of which fell victim to hit men acting under Tehran's remote control? The foreign minister acknowledged these "accusations," but pointed out that in France, a country "with a strong government and independent judiciary, a court found that the Iranian Government was not behind the murder of Shapur Bakhtiar," the former prime minister under the shah. He confirmed that "Iran's policy is consistent with its pledge" not to send out any gunmen.

Does this pledge apply to the future? "Of course. It is our policy. Opponents to our regime live in France and elsewhere. But they are insignificant."

A solution to the Bosnian crisis demands "cooperation among Muslim countries in all fields," Ali Velayati said, stressing that some 2 million Muslims live in Bosnia and that "200,000 of them have been massacred." "Why, then, not urge the Muslim countries to contribute to a peaceful settlement under the UN banner?" While criticizing the UN role, Mr. Velayati condemned the "humiliation" of the hostages taken by the Bosnian Serbs.

Tehran says that it is not worried by the victory in the French presidential elections of a man that has long symbolized the excellence of Franco-Iranian relations. "As soon as he was elected President Chirac spoke positively about the future of Franco-Iranian relations. We welcomed that. We give priority to our relations with France because it has a relatively independent foreign policy and possesses advanced technology. As for Iran, it is a strong country situated in a sensitive region. It is therefore in France's interest to maintain good relations with Iran."

Diplomat Interviewed on Relationship With Lebanon

NC0706120595 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 May 95 p 12

[Third and last part of interview with Homayun 'Alizadeh, ambassador to Lebanon by unidentified correspondent in Lebanon; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [ETTELA'AT] What is your assessment of Lebanon's economic position among Arab countries? What would you propose for the private and government sectors in Iran as regards investment and economic activity in Lebanon? In general in view of the trend of economic growth in Lebanon, will you be seeking to open the path for Iran?

['Alizadeh] Both the questions that you mentioned are very controversial, especially the first one, which is related to other issues. As regards Lebanon's economic position among the Arab countries and the region, if you were to peruse the past history of Lebanon prior to the period when it was embroiled in the civil war, you will observe that Lebanon has played a supranational [fara melli] role, in fact a role larger than a country of its size can play. [passage omitted]

Some circles believe that the civil war in Lebanon has retarded its progress for a 15-17 year period. Some believe that it was all part of an Israeli conspiracy which undermined the strength and regional role of Lebanon.

This is because Israel is seeking to play a similar role in the region and this is one of the new concepts being propounded by Israel. This implies that Israel is seeking to become the pole of tourism, marketing, and banking and this is exactly the role which was played by Lebanon in the eighties decade and in the course of the civil war. [passage omitted]

The characteristics of the program—the roots of which can be found in the past—that Israel has in hand and is seeking to implement with all its might are not in the least unexpected. In fact much importance must be attached to it in view of what has been happening in Lebanon in the past.

The civil war in Lebanon sapped its strength in three areas. Its peace and security, that is, when its sects became embroiled in conflict instead of working for economic progress. This created an unfavorable climate and Lebanese capital sought a more secure refuge abroad. This delivered a setback to the three sectors of tourism, banking, and commerce and Lebanon decreased in geographical stature in the region, which is not a very favorable state of affairs for Lebanon.

There are many who believe that if Lebanon were to remain confined within its boundaries, it would encounter serious problems with regard to the bond between Lebanese society and the outside world. [passage omitted]

As for Iran's economic role in Lebanon, one must keep in mind that Lebanon is a country with a free economy and the private sector has the last word on the country's economy. The government does not play a major role in the country's economic activities, except as is the case in many countries with a similar system, that is, merely to control and direct economic activities.

Lebanon is a country which has very strong distinctive characteristics as regards trade, not only on the domestic level but abroad, and this has further strengthened the bonds between the government and private sector. The Lebanese private sector is the most important area which can infuse dynamism in the trade between our two countries. Of course, our official policy at the same time has been to sign economic and trade agreements so that as regards economic relations between the private sectors in our two respective countries we can provide assistance in all areas and departments.

We have followed this up in the past few years and recently it was also welcomed by the Lebanese side. We are now attending to the preliminaries for the Lebanese prime minister's visit to Iran, during which economic and commercial agreements will be signed between the two countries; this will galvanize the wheels of our reciprocal economic relations and the economy. However, as I mentioned earlier, this should not deter our economic departments from entering the field as well and forging their own relations as the Lebanese side has always expressed its willingness in this regard. Naturally, these relations require precise planning from the Iranian side so that we enter into the field of trade with Lebanon with an intensively formulated and precise program.

Currently there is appropriate scope for economic activity, investment, and for offering engineering services in Lebanon which is being welcomed by the Lebanese side. Lebanon is at present the venue for the games of many other countries including the European and regional countries as well as others farther afield. Our strong economic potential [preceding word in English] and our services provide us with the opportunity to assert a strong presence on the Lebanese scene. There are certain preparations under way and we can state that our position in this regard is more appropriate and different from what it was in the past.

According to the official statistics that we have, the volume of our trade exchanges has increased from $9 million to nearly $36 million over the past four years, that is, it has quadrupled. The potential that exists is even greater and our relations can increase proportionately to that level. In view of the fact that as you definitely know, Lebanese businessmen and investors are engaged in activities beyond Lebanon and basically most of the dealings between our private sector in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Lebanese side have not been reflected in Lebanon; in fact, Lebanon has been a bridgehead for many areas.

The Lebanese traders have bought many of Iran's products which never entered Lebanon but the main intermediaries and dealers were Lebanese and the products were resold to other countries such as former East Europe, regional and African countries, or some other parts of the world. It is for this reason that we state that there is wonderful potential for activating economic relations between the two countries, even if the goods do not enter Lebanon directly. There are some who merely take into account the domestic market of three to four million in Lebanon even though in a survey of the economic activities between Iran and Lebanon one must not confine oneself to the domestic market in Lebanon.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view the cultural relations between Iran and Lebanon?

['Alizadeh] The cultural relations between Iran and Lebanon can be divided into two sections, direct and indirect. The cultural relations between the Lebanese society—especially the Shiites— with Iranian society, date back to before the Islamic Revolution. This does not pertain merely to the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution. Cultural exchanges, visits, deep and constant relations existed in the past between the seminaries, 'ulema and so on and continued uninterrupted even in the worst conditions, despite occasional obstacles.

During the era of the (former) shah of Iran, whose efforts were geared toward keeping these exchanges under his own control, he was very sensitive on relations between Iran and Lebanon. If you were to read the life history of the various Iranian officials serving today you would observe that they have benefited from visits to Lebanon and these visits continued after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in such a manner that there is much favorable scope for strengthening these relations. Some more elements have been added to them and this process is forging ahead within an extensive Islamic framework against the backdrop of the wave of the Islamic awakening on the regional scene.

This does not have any particular religious aspect but stems from the atmosphere of unity engulfing the entire Islamic society of Lebanon. These sentiments became the focus of the attention of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Therefore, we observe a plethora of miscellaneous institutions, centers, and associations in Lebanon which have a deep sense of affiliation with the Islamic Revolution.

Another point that is worth mentioning in the domain of official relations is the activity that has taken place for boosting relations between the two countries. This means that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its official capacity views Lebanon as a country which has established its political sovereignty more firmly than in the past. This provides the scope and possibilities for cultural exchanges and understanding which are reciprocally beneficial for Iran and Lebanon.

In view of the distinctive cultural characteristics that exist in the two countries, there is wonderful scope for bilateral cooperation. The mutual understanding and unanimity that exists between the two countries will assist greatly in broadening current relations and facilitating their growth and direction. It is for this reason that one of our programs for strengthening bilateral relations is based on achieving comprehensive cultural agreements in various fields and areas which will reflect our unofficial cultural relations within the framework of our official relations.

Spokesman Expresses Concern Over Afghanistan Fighting

LD0706155995 Tehran IRNA in English
1549 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry's spokesman here Wednesday [7 June] expressing Iran's concern over the escalation of civil war in Afghanistan, called on Afghan rival factions to exercise self-restraint. Morteza Sarmadi said Tehran desires all Afghan jihadi groups to solve the problems through negotiation and self-restraint and refrain from war and clashes.

Underlining Afghanistan's need for political stability and economic reconstruction, the spokesman said the United Nations should pay special attention to the important Islamic country.

Official Hails Efforts Against Opposition Groups

LD0806153895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 8 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of a bloody bomb explosion at the immaculate shrine of His Holiness Reza [eighth Shiite imam], peace be upon him, Mr. 'Ali Fallahian, minister of intelligence [and security], was interviewed by the Central News Unit. He described the Intelligence Ministry's efforts for stopping the destructive activities of the [opposition] grouplets as very effective. He said: The Intelligence Ministry has infiltrated the political structure of the counterrevolutionary grouplets and has managed to gain information about their plans.

The intelligence minister added: During the last year the Intelligence Ministry forces managed to identify and arrest members of some grouplets before they had the chance to bring their bombs to the country. Mr. Fallahian thanked the personnel of the Law Enforcement Force and the people for helping to stop terrorist activities in the country and called for the continuation of such efforts.

Official Addresses Nuclear Program, Yeltsin Visit

NC0906141695 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
3 Jun 95 p 3

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Dr. Reza Amrollahi, deputy president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization, by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Currently we have peaceful cooperation with many countries in Europe and other parts of the world." This was stated by Dr. Reza

Amrollahi, deputy president and head of the Iran Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO], in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN. He added: We currently produce 90 percent of the "radio" [preceding word in English] pharmaceuticals that are used in the country and we have become self-sufficient in this area.

The head of the IAEO said: In the field of nuclear agriculture we have carried out remarkable activities, especially the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture, and we are in the process of researching this area.

Regarding the upcoming visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Tehran and the possibility of his talks on the Bushehr nuclear power plant with Iranian officials, he said: For the past one or two years Yeltsin was supposed to visit Iran, and I believe that the necessary preliminaries will be arranged by our Foreign Ministry.

He recalled: It is natural that important issues pertaining to the Bushehr power plant be discussed during the Russian president's visit. Regarding the reconstruction of the Bushehr power plant, Dr. Amrollahi stated: Our work has begun and is moving ahead at a suitable pace.

He stressed: We hope that the country's banking officials will assist us. Regarding the differences between the Bushehr power plant and those that produce nuclear bombs, he said: Our power plant in Bushehr is a light water one, which has a 3 percent enrichment level for its fuel and is used for generating electricity. It cannot be used for any other purpose. However, other reactors that have a 50-percent enrichment level for fuel can be used for dual purposes.

He added: The United States and Israel in particular wish the people to be ignorant of this difference and they continue to instill this false impression in the minds of the people.

Dr. Amrollahi stated: The United States has 109 power plants operating at present and is in the process of making six more. Nearly 22 percent of electricity in the United States is nuclear energy, even though it is one of the largest oil-producing countries in the world. However, the United States follows a dual policy of discrimination against other countries.

He said: The United States is opposed to the reconstruction of a power plant in Iran, despite the fact that on the basis of Article 4 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty we have the right to utilize nuclear energy and even obtain the necessary assistance in this area.

Article Views Quest for Nuclear Power

95LH0155A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Apr 95 pp 44-45

[Article by Dr. Ali Nuri Zadah: "Khomeyni Abolished Nuclear Reactor Projects and Considered Them Idolatrous; Iranian Nuclear Capability: Reality or Propaganda"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sharifi is an Iranian expert in nuclear physics. In 1974, the Iranian Nuclear Energy Organization sent him to Britain when it discovered in him, while he was still a second-year student at the Physics and Science College of Pahlavi University in Shiraz, outstanding scientific qualifications and capabilities that distinguished him from both students and professors. Sharifi came to London and joined the Imperial College, where he got his Ph.D. in nuclear physics in 1978 with a very good evaluation. When he returned to Iran at the onset of 1979, he headed upon his arrival to the Nuclear Energy Organization, first, to inform its officials of his return and, second, to acquaint himself with his colleagues and to find out where the organization decided he would be performing his duty. The organization had covered the costs of his studies and stay in Britain for more than four years in return for a pledge on his part to work at one of the organization's laboratories or institutes for twice this period; i.e., eight years. The total sum of money the organization spent to transform Sharifi from a university student in Shiraz to a prominent nuclear physics expert amounted to nearly 300,000 pounds sterling.

Sharifi's arrival in Tehran coincided with the first months of the revolution's inception. Iran was still gripped by a climate of revolutionary zeal. Like any educated Iranian intellectual, Sharifi was not far from that climate. Rather, he experienced, as he mentioned later, great satisfaction when he went to the Nuclear Energy Organization to meet Engineer Basendideh, Imam Khomeyni's nephew who had been appointed head of the Nuclear Energy Organization in place of Dr. Akbar Itimad, a deputy prime minister and organization director during the shah's administration. In contrast with Dr. Itimad, who was one of the world's most prominent nuclear scientists and who had returned to Iran from a U.S. nuclear research center at the shah's invitation to supervise the construction of four nuclear reactors, institutes, and laboratories in Iran, Engineer Basendideh was not an expert, a nuclear physicist, or an expert on anything connected with the nuclear field. When Dr. Sharifi met Basendideh, the latter simply said, "Imam Khomeyni has considered projects to build nuclear reactors and to transform Iran into a second Japan idolatrous projects. Therefore, we have decided to abandon them, and we cannot give you, meaning Sharifi, work because institutes and laboratories have been suspended and because work on the Bushehr and Darkhuin reactors has been stopped. I suggest that you join the Revolutionary Guard."

Three weeks later, Dr. Sharifi returned to London, frustrated and in despair. For a long time, he looked for work in British universities and nuclear laboratories. But being Iranian made him an undesirable element. This made him try his luck in commerce. He purchased a bakery on installment and started making Iranian bread (taftun) and selling it to Arab and Iranian restaurants and shops in London. Today, Sharif looks out the windows of his opulent office on Westwood Street in Los Angeles, California, where he has been living since 1984 and managing major oriental bread production and distribution companies in the United States and Canada. Sharif has said, "We were 25 graduates altogether. Dr. Itimad sent us to Europe and the United States in 1974. Only three out of our group work in Iran now. One of them works at the Nuclear Energy Organization, the second teaches at Amir Kabir University, and the third is Engineer Reza Amrollahi, presidential aide and head of the Nuclear Energy Organization who was not able to return to Europe to complete his studies because of the revolution. He returned to Iran and assumed the organization chairmanship after a while. The other group members are spread throughout Europe, the United States, and Japan."

Agreements and Reactors

Dr. Sharifi's story is not unique. Upon the revolution's inception, Iranian authorities abolished numerous giant projects, which the shah had sought to complete before the onset of the 1990's. The project to build nuclear reactors in Bushehr and Darkhuin, which is close to the city of Ahvaz in Khuzistan, was one of those projects. Agreements were concluded with the Consortium Craft Work Union, a German consortium controlled by Siemens, to build two nuclear reactors in Bushehr in the early 1970's. Another agreement was concluded with Farm Atom, a company controlled by the French [Ordif?] Corporation, to build a nuclear reactor in Darkhuin, Ahvaz. In February 1979, at a time when 90 percent of the project to build two nuclear reactors in Bushehr had been completed and when just less than 30 percent of the infrastructure of the Darkhuin reactor had been finished, the Revolution Command Council canceled the agreements with the German and French companies. One should keep in mind that the equipment and instruments that had been sent by the Consortium Craft Work Union to Bushehr Port (equipment that needed only several months to be installed so the project could be inaugurated) sat idle aboard two German boats for several months. When the cancellation decision was made, the German company returned the instruments and equipment to Germany.

In contrast with Iran's revolutionary government that was not concerned with the Bushehr and Darkhuin reactors and with the other industrial projects and that was rather preoccupied with exporting the revolution and liquidating the military and political cadres of the shah's regime, Iraq put the Bushehr reactor at the top of its priorities at the start of the war and dispatched its aircraft several times to strike it. However, Iraqi aircraft managed to dump bombs on a part of the reactor only twice. Those bombs caused no damage to the reactor because it was protected by a very sophisticated air-defense system from the shah's days.

Project Revival

In 1984, Ali Khamen'i, Iran's president at the time (and leader of the revolution currently), assigned a technical committee headed by Engineer Amrollahi to study the possibilities of reviving the project for the Bushehr and Darkhuin reactors. Several months later, the committee acknowledged that what had been done at the outset of the revolution was a sin, which harmed Iran's interests and its future development. In the report sent to Khamene'i, a committee member wrote, "They (Revolution Command Council members) betrayed our people with their March 1979 decision to abolish the reactor project."

But the Consortium Craft Work Union notified the Iranian side that it would not be able at all to complete the Bushehr reactor. Engineer Amrollahi also received a similar response from the French Farm Atom. From 1985 to 1992, Iran held more than 1,000 hours of negotiations with German, French, Italian, Austrian, Japanese, and South Korean companies to conclude an agreement with one of the companies to complete the project. When contacts were concluded, it became evident to Iranian officials that there was no hope of concluding an agreement with Western companies to complete Bushehr and that the United States would not permit the said companies to conclude any agreement to build nuclear reactors in the Islamic Republic.

After Iranian Nuclear Energy Organization officials were disappointed by the West and became convinced that China was unable (despite its officials' promises as of 1985) to supply the technology and equipment required to complete the Bushehr reactor, Iran turned to Russia, its northern neighbor. After a series of talks in Moscow and Tehran in 1994, Russian Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov visited Tehran from 5-8 January 1995 and signed an agreement with Engineer Amrollahi. In accordance with this agreement, Russia pledged to complete the Bushehr reactor within a period of no less than four years and at a cost of $800 million, to be paid by Iran in four installments.

The Iranian-Russian agreement includes:

— 1. A Russian commitment to provide places for 500 Iranian engineers and experts to complete their studies at Russia's nuclear academies.

— 2. A Russian commitment to complete two furnaces of the (reactor) project: The first with a production capacity of 1,000 megawatts and the second with 800 megawatts. Iranian sources estimate the plutonium that will be produced by the reactor in the initial phase at 30-50 kg.

The same sources note that completion of the two nuclear furnaces in the Bushehr reactor, which will be undertaken by the Russians in accordance with Mikhaylov's agreement with Amrollahi, is a very difficult task because the reactor columns and many of its basic parts are made by the West, which requires importing equipment and instruments from the West.

Iran is also facing difficulties in securing the foreign exchange needed to meet its financial commitments to the Russians, whether to pay the installments for its military purchases or to pay the installments of its nuclear agreement with Russia. This gives rise to some doubts on the possibility that the Bushehr reactor will be completed during the period set by the two parties to the agreement. Moreover, the United States is putting increasing pressure on Russia to stop it from supplying Iran with sophisticated equipment and instruments to build the Bushehr reactor and nuclear research laboratories and institutes. This is another negative element that has to be taken into account when evaluating the Russian-Iranian agreement.

Will Iran Become a Nuclear Power in the Region?

An Iranian nuclear scientist who is living in Europe and who assumed an important position in the Nuclear Energy Organization before the revolution says that, in 1979, Iran had a plan to acquire nuclear weapon production technology and that some experts expected the first Iranian atomic bomb to be produced by the end of the 1980's; i.e., 10 years after inauguration of the Bushehr and Darkhuin reactors. Because construction of the Bushehr and Darkhuin reactors has been suspended for more than 17 years, Iran's acquisition of the technology and materials needed to produce an atomic bomb will take no less than 10 years. The Iranian scientist has pointed out that rumors spread from time to time by the Western media on Iran's purchase of nuclear heads from central Asian republics, from the Ukraine, or from other countries fall within the context of the U.S.-led propaganda war against Iran. However, the Iranian scientist has confirmed that the report about Iran's possession of large amounts of uranium, enriched uranium, and plutonium are true. Iran obtained these amounts from black market merchants in Sierra Leone and Chad. Moreover, Iran has owned 30 percent of the stock of [Rosin?], a company in Namibia, South Africa, since the shah's days. This company produces hundreds of tons of uranium from its expanded mines annually. Iran has the right to import a part of this uranium.

With the approval of the International Energy Agency, Tehran has acquired certain quantities of enriched uranium from Argentina to be used for scientific purposes and for studies at the Nuclear Research Laboratory of Amir Kabir University and the Nuclear Research Center.

Since 1989, the Iranian Nuclear Energy Organization has been cooperating with Pakistani scientists. Some Iraqi experts who fled to Iran after the second Gulf war also work at the Iranian Nuclear Energy Organization's laboratories and institutes.

Amrollahi's Statements

There are Iranian assertions that indicate that the Iranian leadership has begun to realize dimensions of the U.S.-Israeli game vis—vis Iran and some of the region's countries, such as Egypt and Pakistan, in their capacity as countries that have the scientific expertise and the practical capabilities to acquire nuclear weapon-production technology. Therefore, at a time when Iran is engaging in a policy that is similar to Egypt's and the Arab countries' policy on signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, prominent Iranian officials try in their meetings with Western government officials to assure these governments about Iran's objectives and about its determination to complete the Bushehr reactor.

In an interview published by the media recently, Iranian Nuclear Energy Organization Chairman Engineer Amrollahi asserted that Iran does not need atomic weapons and that it aspires for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons. He also said that Iran advocates the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Answering a question on inviting Americans to inspect Iranian nuclear installations, Amrollahi said, "We will not invite the United States or any other country. We will content ourselves with letting the International Nuclear Energy Agency conduct the inspection."

As to why Iran, which owns gas and oil, is determined to build nuclear reactors if it does not plan to produce nuclear weapons, Amrollahi said, "We need the oil and gas for export. This is why we are seeking a source to produce electric power for our factories and water desalination plants. We have spent several billion dollars on the Bushehr plant, and it is not logical to abandon its completion."

*Country Said Bent on Projecting Power in Region

95LH0157A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22 Apr 95 pp 10-11

[Article by Salah al-Hashim: "Iran: Growing Muscles and Shrinking Thought"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I recall an interesting and thought-provoking statement attributed to philosopher Bertrand Russell in which he says, "Man's strength preceded the awakening of his conscience, and his muscle growth preceded the growth of his thought."

I recalled this statement when I and others read the Iranian media's unjustifiable escalation, which is intended to demonstrate a military superiority that is great by the Gulf states' criteria but that does not affect the powers that watch the region with an unblinking eye.

It seems that the Iranian policy is accomplishing, perhaps unwittingly, precisely what these powers want by creating, and with its own hands, the justification that the new world order powers want. To be precise, this policy is creating what the new world order power wants. We mean by this power the United States, who is the great Satan, according to the Iranian political vocabulary, and the true friend of the Arabs.

Whoever thinks that Iran practices politics through the imam's turban or robe is wrong. If we wanted to be accurate, we would say that Iran practices religion in a political manner and engages in politics on the pretext of religion. This is an old historical game, which the shah tried to play in the past. But he failed because of his system of government, which the mullas exploited to enter into politics through the window of religion.

No impartial observer can find any noteworthy difference between the shah's defunct regime and the mullas' current regime, especially when the matter concerns the nature of the relationship between the two banks of the Arab Gulf. There is no difference, despite the optimistic hopes that developed among the Gulf Arabs when the shah's regime disappeared. After years of social and political dealings with Iran, it has been discovered that these hopes are closer to nightmares than to rosy dreams. In the past, the shah's regime bragged that it was the Gulf's policeman. That regime practiced domination in a polite form that was not declared in the region's media, at least. The shah's regime spent billions to maintain this status and domination, which climaxed when the shah's forces occupied the three Arab islands in an explicit declaration of control and power. For numerous political and regional considerations, the Arab Gulf states, not to mention the Arab League, failed to end that occupation or to even protest it peacefully through international organizations. With the disappearance of the shah's regime and the arrival of the mullas' regime, the Iranian mentality continued to view the Arab Gulf as a Persian lake that must be brought under Iranian custodianship. This mentality believes that, at times, it is necessary to shake the fist of force before whoever calls not for correcting a condition created by a past regime but for improving relations between the two banks of the Arab Gulf.

Matters have even reached the point where Iran even refuses to resort to international arbitration within a new world order. Iran has tried and continues to try to enter this order and utilize its benefits. But it refuses to shoulder its duties and responsibilities.

The main point that Iran always tries to make clear is that it has the power. It believes falsely that whoever has the power acquires what he wants. This equation has not succeeded even in the commercial market law. In politics as in the market, nobody gets something just because he dreams of it, hopes for it, or needs it. One gets something if one has something to give in return.

We look at Iran and we find that it dreams of controlling the Straight of Hormuz, of continuing its occupation of the Arab islands, and of becoming the Gulf's policeman and its strong fist. Iran, to the exclusion of others, needs foreign expertise, Gulf capital, and neighboring markets to sell its products. So what has Iran done to acquire what it dreams of and needs? What does it have to offer in return for acquiring what it dreams of and needs?

Very simply, the answer is nothing.

Iran waged a devastating eight-year war with Iraq. Before that, it raised the banner of exporting the revolution—a slogan that frightens and horrifies the Arab Gulf states. The normal reaction of these Arab states was to seek protection and to wish to destroy this regime, or at least to weaken and neutralize it. This unstable Iranian policy persisted until Iraq invaded Kuwait. We then heard Khalkhali, who was until recently the Iranian parliamentary speaker, demand withdrawal of the "infidel" U.S. forces and the Iraqi forces simultaneously!

Iran's position on the occupation of Kuwait disappointed the Gulf aspirations, even though it had been expected as a result of Arab support for Iraq in its war against Iran. Despite this, we can make a historical comparison with the Iranian positions by citing the example of the Khawarij who unsheathed their swords not out of love for Mu'awiyah but out of hatred for Ali!

Not only this. Iran has also exercised the power of a high commissioner over the Gulf states by insisting on interfering in the Arab Gulf states' domestic affairs, knowing full well that, if it were treated similarly, this would create for it serious problems in its society that swarms with various Persian, Kurdish, and Arab ethnic groups. Such diversity could lead to the emergence of provincial tendencies and movements that may pose a threat to the Iranian society's structure and makeup.

Despite this, the Arab Gulf states have absorbed the Iranian provocations because they are well aware that the consequences of provoking any ethnic, sectarian, or denominational conflict will not be confined to one bank of the Gulf to the exclusion of the other but will include all countries overlooking the Gulf. Iran has lacked this sense of responsibility throughout its dealings with the Arab Gulf states.

We need not review the incident by which Iran refused to return a Kuwaiti aircraft that Iraq had sent to Iran during its occupation of Kuwait until Kuwait paid it, Iran, parking costs. Iran demanded the payment even though it had used the aircraft for domestic flights. We also need not point out that Iran has created and continues to create storms and problems in every pilgrimage season — a season in which God has prohibited obscenity, iniquity, and sedition. We will not repeat the talk about Iran's continued occupation of the Arab islands, especially since it has fully seized them and has violated the agreement concluded with the United Arab Emirates. Iran has thus violated a covenant even though it flies the banner of Islam, which demands the fulfillment of pledges and promises. Iran has also escalated the matter by establishing missile bases that threaten the region's cities and capitals. It has even tried to drive a wedge between the Arab Gulf states. Iran says what it does not do, and it does things whose consequences it cannot shoulder. It has rejected international arbitration. Observers have been aware of the Iranian position, especially of Iran's obvious fear of unity among the Arab Gulf states through the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council]. It fears such unity even though the GCC has, very regrettably, failed throughout the 14 years since its creation to solve even border problems among its members!

Iran is a source of anxiety for the region, and it is well aware of this fact. It demands stability but fabricates crises that arouse anxiety. It rejects the principle of occupation by force, but it applies and practices this principle against the Arab islands. Iran rejects anybody's allusion to the possibility of the use of force against it, but it proceeds to deploy its missiles and to conduct its maneuvers near Arab waters. It then asks the other countries not to be afraid or apprehensive and not to think ill of it. It uses a sharp tone in its dialogue with the Arab bank of the Gulf while it tries secretly to establish economic relations with the Western countries. It sends belligerent messages to its neighbors while sending at the same time envoys to express goodwill toward Israel. We need not bring up the issue of weapons and weapon deals in which Iran embroiled itself with Israel. Despite all this, Iran wonders about the reason for its international isolation, for the fear that its neighbors feel toward it, and for the lack of trust and credibility in the actions of its leaders and political figures!

It is our belief that the reason for the political storm that Iran fabricates from time to time is to divert the domestic public opinion from its numerous problems, including unemployment, a low currency exchange rate, and inflation, by convincing this public that it is necessary to confront the foreign threat that occupies a big place in the Iranian leaders' minds. The real situation is different, and recent history has proven the failure of this [diversionary] policy.

At times, I feel that Iran is rendering foreign powers a major service and giving them the justification to intervene while giving the Arab Gulf states a justification to spend billions on armament instead of spending them on the region's development, whose benefits will undoubtedly spread to the peoples overlooking both banks of the Gulf.

Iran still lives with the mentality of Korush the Great, still rules with the shah's method, and still addresses the world with the mentality of dervishes. Thus, it is a state for which we harbor nothing but regret, concern, and fear — fear from it and fear for it.

Pakistan

Minister Concerned Over Indian Troops in Kashmir

BK0706155195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has expressed serious concern about Indian military concentration in occupied Kashmir.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he pointed that 80,000 additional Indian troops brought to the occupied Kashmir on the pretext of the elections have been retained, which further raises our concerns. He said India has been forced to postpone the elections, which is a victory for Kashmiri people. About progress in the modification of Pressler Amendment, the foreign minister said the U.S. Senate committees and the Congress had adopted resolutions and necessary work has been done. The matter will be taken up for legislation in the next session of the Congress and the Senate. To another question, he said if the reported U.S. refusal to sell high technology to India is correct, it is a welcome development and shows an even-handed policy of the U.S. Administration. To a further question, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan has a proof of Indian interference in the Karachi situation.

Earlier, inaugurating a media and diplomacy course being attended by diplomats, he recalled the importance of the media management in the current information explosion era. The foreign minister referred to important international developments, including the Kashmir problem, the situation in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Bosnia, and the coverage by the electronic media. He stressed that the diplomats are to be conversant with the media technique.

Daily Warns of Possible Indian Kashmir Attack

BK0906104995 Lahore JANG in Urdu 9 Jun 95 p 3

[Editorial: "India's Greedy Eyes on Azad Kashmir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Talking to correspondents the other day, Indian President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said Pakistan has been forcibly occupying Azad Kashmir, but that India has begun efforts to evict it. Reiterating New Delhi's traditional stand in this regard, Dr. Sharma said Kashmir is an integral part of India and no power on earth can separate it from us.

As the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri holy warriors is gaining strength day by day and the 600,000 Indian troops are finding themselves powerless in front of the Kashmiri freedom fighters — despite using all kinds of war machines against them — the Indian leaders seem to be increasing the frequency and intensity of their threatening statements against Pakistan. Rajesh Pilot, the Indian minister of state for home affairs, has already warned that the reservoir of his patience is drying up. Railway Minister Jaffar Shariff has already threatened Pakistan with a limited and brief war. Bharatiya Janata Party leader Murli Manohar Joshi has also been harping the same tune, and now the voice of war emanating from no less a place than the President House is definitely a cause of great concern. It reinforces the fear that India might attack Azad Kashmir to avenge the routs it suffered in occupied Kashmir. The increasing incidents of violations of the Line of Control in Azad Kashmir and firings by Indian forces from across the border are a part of India's sinister provocations that are being deliberately intensified. It seems India now realizes that it is gradually losing control of occupied Kashmir and in the wake of mounting international pressure, it will have to give up occupied Kashmir.

Under these circumstances, the Indian leaders' slogans declaring Kashmir as an integral part of India may be designed to exact the maximum concessions from major powers. Having been lacerated in occupied Kashmir, India might launch an attack on Azad Kashmir. Therefore, the governments of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir should take a serious note of these threats and the government and the opposition should remain united and fully ready to meet any eventuality.

Daily Concerned Over U.S.-India Naval Exercises

*BK0706090295 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu
5 Jun 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "U.S.-India Military Exercises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The navies of the United States and India carried out military exercises in the Indian Ocean last month. The secret naval exercises were participated in by the Western Command of the Indian Navy and the U.S. fleet in the Pacific Ocean. This was the fourth naval exercise between the two countries. Confirming these exercises, the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi said that they were aimed at establishing a communication system in the deep sea, securing contact between allied vessels, and gaining expertise.

We stated in these columns yesterday that the U.S. assurance of not supplying weapons and technology to India is misleading. The secret naval exercise is yet another instance that supports our stance that the United States is only making false promises to Pakistan while maintaining close military ties with India. The military cooperation with India, according to the United States, is aimed at making South Asia a nuclear-free zone. This is why it is cooperating with India in the nonnuclear sphere. However, India not only refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but is continuing its nuclear weapon and missile programs.

The Pakistan-U.S. Defense Cooperation Group has also decided to conduct joint military exercises between the two countries. Evidently, the United States is conducting joint military exercises with both Pakistan and India. This should be a matter of concern for Pakistan, because the experiences gained from exercises with Pakistan might well be transferred to India.

We cannot but express concern over the U.S.-India military exercises, for which no prior announcements were made and which were disclosed three to four weeks after they were held. The Government of Pakistan should establish contact with the United States and ask what objective the latter wants to realize by conducting secret military exercises with India. The military exercises with Pakistan were announced several months before they commenced.

Minister Views Planned Aircraft, Indian Strength

BK0506065495 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Jun 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Pakistan and China have started preliminary negotiations for co-development and manufacture of a modern fighter aircraft, Super-7.

Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani informally told newsmen here Sunday [4 June] that the prototype of the aircraft would be ready by 1997.

He said a board comprising technical experts of the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] which will be headed by the Air Force Chief was formed about a month ago, which would oversee the manufacture of the new fighter jet and related matters.

The Minister said the plane would be built with the technical collaboration on China and described it as the "aircraft of the next century."

He was of the view that its price would be one-third of similar aircraft available in the world and, it would be almost equivalent to the F-16 while price-wise it would be far cheap.

Mirani said an understanding had been reached with China on this count while an agreement would be signed in the near future. He said teams from both sides had visited other's country for the purpose.

According to the Defence Minister, out of total of 27 Indian infantry/mountain divisions, eight are already deployed in occupied Kashmir either along the Line of Control or for operations against Kashmiri mujahideen. Now two additional divisions out of Indian strategic reserves are also being inducted in the held Kashmir, he said.

Mirani said presently three corps headquarters and seven mountain divisions were stationed in north eastern states. Depending upon the internal security situation in the north east and situation along the Indo-China border, Indians are capable of shifting more than 50 percent of these forces to Pakistani borders, he said.

Talking about the Indian Air Force, Mirani said it had a total of 44 combat squadrons having about 800 aircraft. Out of these, 39 combat squadrons (700 aircraft) could be made readily available in Western and South Western Air Commands for operations against Pakistan.

He said the units of Western Naval Command were immediately available for operations against Pakistan. Western Naval Command constitutes around 60 percent of the total Indian Naval strength including both the aircraft carriers, 12 out of 19 submarines held with India and most of the missile crafts.

Official Iranian Visit Ends; Statement Signed

BK0906065395 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 8 (PPI) — Iranian Minister for Petroleum Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and the Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Anwar Saifullah Khan signed a joint statement of decisions at the conclusion of former's 2-day visit to Pakistan, here Wednesday [7 June].

Both sides discussed at length the Iran-Pakistan gas export/import project, establishment of joint-venture company, import of liquefied petroleum gas [LPG], and purchase of fuel oil from Iran during the meetings held between Iranian delegates and the senior officials of the ministry as well as between Iranian Petroleum Minister and his Pakistani counterpart.

They reviewed the progress made by the joint working committee in pursuance of the MoU [memorandum of understanding] signed between two ministers in Tehran on January 28, 1995, regarding gas pipeline project for bringing Natural Gas from Southern Iranian gas fields to Pakistan. Both sides have expressed their full satisfaction on the implementation of schedule agreed therein.

The Iranian government has already given approval for establishment of joint-venture company to supervise the project whereas approval of Pakistan government is in process and is expected to be issued in early next month. Both sides agreed to form joint-venture company on fifty-fifty partnership basis. Both sides also approved the parameters and principles of the proposal venture and same will be incorporated in shareholders' agreement.

It was also decided that the details of route and other relevant information relating to Gulf South Asia pipeline project for import of Qatari gas to Pakistan would be provided to the government of Iran either by the government of Qatar or government of Pakistan for giving formal permission by the Iranian government to pass the pipeline through Iranian territory.

Both sides also agreed to encourage private sector companies of Pakistan to approach national Iranian LPG company for import of LPG by road via Taftan. Pakistan side also gave her consent to the purchase of fuel oil from Iran subject to agreement on the quantity, specification and price. The entire sale process of the fuel oil would go toward Iran's share of the equity in the Iran-Pak refinery project.

The Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Anwar Saifullah Khan thanked Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i for his keen interest taken in the Iran-Pakistan gas export-import project. He hoped that both the governments will, Inshallah [God willing], achieve their objectives very soon to the mutual benefit of their people.

The Iranian delegation left for Tehran here Thursday, Anwar Saifullah Khan and senior officials of the ministry saw them off.

The Iranian Minister expressed satisfaction over his talks with his Pakistani counterpart and thanked for the hospitality shown by government of Pakistan during his stay.

Bhutto Details Terms for Dialogue With MQM

BK0806121195 Islamabad THE NATION in English 8 Jun 95 pp 1,5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has once again offered the avenue of dialogue to the MQM (Altaf Group) but not before they give up militancy and throw out criminals from their ranks.

Talking to newsmen on Wednesday [7 June] after speaking at a book- launching function, she asked the MQM leadership to abhor terrorism and help the government in solving problems of Karachi. As for her conditions, she said the withdrawal of cases was out of question.

"Who are we to take back the case. It is only up to the families whose relatives have been killed or the courts hearing those cases. In our religion too, killers can only be forgiven by the blood relations and nobody else," said the Prime Minister.

Sitting beside her was Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan. Almost as if assuring him, she said: "Our doors are open to talks as the government believed in such democratic options. But how can there be dialogue with somebody who is holding you at gunpoint. I want to ask them that what are they going to achieve by killing innocent people except destruction. [sentence as published] It is no service to the citizens. Besides, if they think they can put the government under pressure by resorting to such tactics, they are mistaken. The government will not be intimidated," she said.

Referring to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, she said most of the case were registered during Nawqaz Sharif's government. "If these cases against the MQM leadership are bogus then either Nawaz should be prosecuted for instituting false charges or he should apologise to the entire country." It was after some time that she openly questioned the position of the Leader of the opposition. She said Nawaz Sharif was now in a state of desperation because he wanted to save himself from the process of law. "As to what he says as an Opposition Leader, I don't buy that. I want to remember his conduct when he was in power." The Prime Minister said her offer was very simple: "Lay down your arms, surrender your criminals and then come to the table. We are ready to talk to the Altaf Group's representatives. They should negotiate their demands through dialogue. But I want to ask them that what has MQM politics given to the people of Karachi. The Altaf Group should realise that those who are being killed are also Muhajirs".

To another question she said her government had been elected by the people and it could not be held hostage to the politics of bullets. "If the opposition wants to vacate their seats from Karachi, they are welcome to do so."

Asked about the local bodies elections she said it would require some time before the civic situation was restored. "My government is determined to hold local bodies elections as soon as possible. There is water shortage. Bad management and misuse of funds has badly affected every big city. Karachi is facing an urban decay, mainly due to mal-administration of KMC [Karachi Metropolitan Corporation] during the last few years."

The gist of her observations was that unless the MQM groups discard weapons, the Karachi problem could not be solved. When asked, she said it was an established thing and people were convinced of the involvement of foreign hand. She also denied having any knowledge of Sindh government's contacts with Altaf Hussain through MQM representative Ajmal Dehalvi, who has left for London.

PPI adds: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Wednesday said her government is ready to talk to the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) but they should put down their weapons and surrender the wanted criminals.

Talking to reporter at a local hotel where she was the chief guest at a book launching ceremony, the Prime Minister said the government has never refused from dialogue.

"We believe in political dialogue. We take guidance from talks our doors are open for both the MQM (Altaf) and MQM (Haqiqi)", added Benazir Bhutto.

Asked with whom she will hold talks, the Prime Minister said the MQM Senators, MPAs [members of the provincial assembly] and its leaders, who are not involved in cases can come and talk to the government".

Asked about the Leader of the Opposition demand for the withdrawal of cases against the MQM people, she said, "if these cases are bogus then why the then Prime Minister (Nawaz Sharif) registered them. [sentence as published] If Nawaz Sharif has made bogus case, then a case should also be registered against him (Nawaz)" She said Nawaz Sharif is desperate and has been making such demands to escape from courts.

Benazir Bhutto said "I cannot withdraw the case as I believe in *Qisas*[blood money] and *Deyat*[retribution]." Only the affected families are competent to withdraw the cases.

She said the MQM people are involved in the murder of its own leader Azeem Tariq and Editor *Takbeer* Slahuddin. "How can I forgive those who have killed Azeem Tariq and Salabuddin," questioned the Prime Minister.

She said Azeem Tariq was killed durign Nawaz period and we have arrested those named in the FIR [First Information Report] during that time. She added that the MQM people are also involved in the murder of councillor Sami Dehlvi and councillor Sallu who were Muhajir. When her attention was drawn towards the Interior Minister's statement that the operation in Karachi will continue for some months. Benazir Bhutto said there is no operation at present in Karachi. "Withdrawal of army has been completed and there is no operation.

We have been asking Altaf group to lay down their arms and surrender the wanted people to police which will pave way for talks. If dialogue could be held in Middle East and Ireland why not here." she said.

The MQM should come forward, talk to the government and work for the betterment and development of the biggest city, she added. He made it clear that the government is read for talks but will not do the same under pressure or at gunpoint.

To a question, she once again clarified her speech in Kasur. She said, "I had stated that those who are killing personnel of law- enforcement agencies by opening fire from the rooftop are mc[illegible]es. "If the feelings of anyone have been injured by my words I am sorry for that."

The Prime Minister said the people of Karachi have become fed up with the lawlessness and terrorism and are supporting the government to eliminate terrorists. She added that there is consensus among the people of Karachi that there should be no weapons in Karachi and peace should return to the city.

To a question she said the government will accept the MQM demand to hold local bodies elections in Karachi at appropriate army, nomination of an Urdu speaking Governor and adopting even handed policies towards both the MQM groups.

Daily Urges Efforts Against Karachi 'Terrorism'

BK0606145995 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 6 Jun 95 p 10

[Editorial: "No Talks Can Be Held With Terrorists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the government has never denied the importance of political consultations and understanding. However, we will not hold talks with the terrorists who kill innocent people in Karachi. Our doors are always open for political consultations and understanding with political parties that believe in protecting the people's life, property, and honor. During separate meetings with various personalities at Prime Minister House, the prime minister said that the government wants to see political understanding and an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity in the country, which the terrorists are destroying.

The government is faced with organized terrorism in Karachi. The terrorists want to gain an upper hand over the country's politics and democracy, but politics and democracy are the business of politicians who believe in tolerance and respect for each other. The Pakistan People's Party does not allow mingling of politics with crime. The opposition's attitude is unfortunate. The opposition is deliberately patting the terrorists on the back. The prime minister's remarks are supported by her principle, and this is why they carry weight. Viewed impartially and without any political expediency, one is bound to accept the validity of the prime minister's remarks.

The element of understanding should be given a prominent place in politics and differences of opinion should not prompt one to resort to vengeance. If the government and the opposition had a rapport, they would have cooperated on national issues, and then it would have become easy to deal with the Karachi situation. Unfortunately, differences in politics in our country have become so intense that politicians refuse to take a united step to deal with any impending danger or to evade it. Everyone is speaking of the seriousness of the issue, but no one is willing to make any united effort to deal with it. If such a situation persists, it will be difficult to take any effective step for reforms and reconstruction.

The prime minister has accused the opposition of encouraging the terrorists. The best way for the opposition to prove its innocence is to cooperate with the government in suppressing terrorism. Regardless of whether any foreign hand is involved in terrorism or some dull-witted and misguided elements are responsible for it, its effects are definitely damaging the country's economy and social fabric. Therefore, steps must be taken to eradicate it.

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